

No 4

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STRANGE TIMES

**HIDING
BETWEEN
THE LINES**

**CONSPIRACIES
AND
COVER-UPS**

BILL ROSE

**FIGHTERS
VS
THE UFOs**

**THE BEASTS
OF HEXHAM
STU FERROL
INVESTIGATES**

**UFOs
THE REALITY
BEHIND THE
MYTHS**

**GLORIA
HEATHER
DIXON**

**NICKY-TAMS
BRIAN ALLAN
GOES IN
SEARCH
OF THE
PARANORMAL**

**A GHOSTLY
ENCOUNTER**



STRANGE TIMES

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Front & Rear Cover Images: Bill Rose

EDITORIAL

Letter from America



My apologies for the delay in this issue and my heartfelt thanks to Bill Rose for his major contribution to Strange Times. Without his energy and efforts, it is doubtful if this issue would have made its way to your doorsteps before the end of July..

I am writing this editorial from Wilmington Delaware in the United States. For those of you who are not familiar with this small state that started a Nation, it lies on the East coast about thirty minutes from Philadelphia and is the home of the Du Pont Company.

My vacation here has extended to close to six weeks, which is also a factor in the delay period for this issue.

It has been very evident during my trip here that September 11th 2001 has created many effects on the American people and in some ways has had a direct bearing in how they view the world in general and given them an insight into the enormous problems that are occurring outside of the United States.

Their response is apparent everywhere with stars, stripes and banners flying from many homes, businesses, restaurants and vehicles across the United States. The sheer effort and will of how they have dealt with the horrific events of September is amazing and heart-warming.

The outcome of these events is a disturbing reminder of how the world is changing in traumatic ways creating some apprehension and fear of possible further atrocities and man's inhumanity to man, where shocking wars and terrorism are rationalized in the name of religion and economic and social decline.

However, let us not forget that there is remarkable goodness in this world and amazing courage and resilience, particularly as we remember the bravery and altruism of the fire-fighters of New York City, and the sadness of thousands of people from forty countries who lost the most important people in their lives

In this issue and with some relevance to the above thoughts, Bill Rose presents his thought-provoking article in which he has delved behind the newspaper headlines in an attempt to push aside the spin placed on past and present events by those in authority.

He takes us on a journey of information discovery that spans the last century and arrives at the current "War on Terrorism."

We are also running several cutting-edge articles covering a wide-ranging area of subjects, which will give readers a real insight into those mysteries, which appear to exist outside of the framework from which we normally view our lives.

Gloria Heather Dixon

June 2002

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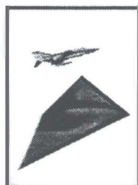
BILL ROSE

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VIA BRIAN ALLAN

Page 30 **Nicky-Tams** is the name of a public house in Stirling, which has an extraordinary history of supernatural activity. In this detailed article, Brian Allan, who is an experienced paranormal researcher and writer, takes us on one of the most fascinating ghost investigations in recent years.



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FEEDBACK

HIDING BETWEEN THE LINES

BILL ROSE

BILL ROSE

← Hospital ★ Samaritans →

WHO KNOWS?
WHO CARES?
NOT ME!

"You can't trust the government; you can't believe what they say; and you can't rely on their judgment; and the implicit infallibility of presidents, which has been an accepted thing in America, is badly hurt by this, because it shows that people do things the President wants to do even though it's wrong, and the President can be wrong."

***H.R. Haldeman to President Richard Nixon
Regarding the Pentagon Papers.
June 14 1971***

We must never lose sight of the fact that governments routinely withhold the truth, censor information and add spin to difficult issues. They also tell blatant lies whenever there is a good chance of getting away with it.

Don't misunderstand me, I am not describing parts of the Former Soviet Union, renegade Middle Eastern countries or Central African dictatorships.

I am talking about North America and nations within the European Union such as Britain, who like to proclaim their democratic openness and freedom for the individual.

Some Americans still cling to

the belief that they are living in a democracy and of course, compared to many parts of the world this is true.

Nevertheless, individual rights have been steadily eroded over the last twenty years and following the 911 attacks. American society has adopted a darker, more inward looking attitude.

During the free and easy nineteen sixties, the U.S administration learnt much about the pitfalls of providing the media with unlimited access to military operations.

Losing the Vietnam War was largely due to negative media coverage and there was one especially damaging release of documents called the "Pentagon Papers."

For some investigators, the 1974 U.S Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) became a major tool of democracy, but in reality, very little information of an earth-shattering nature has ever emerged via this route.

Somewhere in the region of one billion documents with dates prior to 1960 remain classified, with some material dating back to before WW1.

What secrets could America possibly have that are this old and still so sensitive? Well that's anyone's guess, but we might be quite surprised by what remains hidden.

For example, it has been suggested on several occasions that the U.S military attempted to seize power immediately after the Wall St Collapse of

1929.

Then a few years ago, it emerged that the U.S military drew up plans to invade Canada in 1930 and start a naval war with England over trade routes.

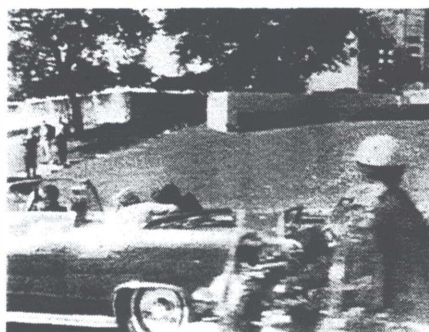
Known as Joint Operation Red, the seemingly bizarre idea of our two nations fighting an alternative Second World War could be the plot for a parallel universe novel.

During the five years prior to the 911 Attack on America, I filed a whole series of requests under the U.S FOIA, with the U.S military.

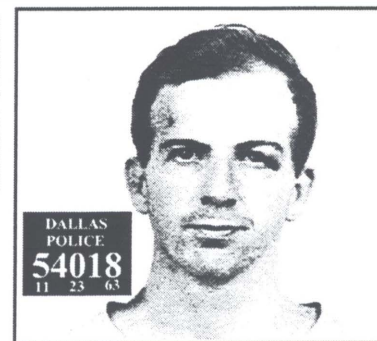
But, it finally dawned on me that the Pentagon had devised numerous techniques to avoid disclosure of sensitive information and they routinely give serious researchers the run-around.

Let's face it, absolutely nothing of any value has ever been released to a UFO investigator and virtually all their efforts to uncover new information have come to zilch.

While it remains clear that something significant took place near Roswell in 1947, the USAF has managed to conceal the truth with very little difficulty.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES



DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Kennedy Assassination of 1963. Did Lee Harvey Oswald act alone? Or was it a conspiracy organised from the highest level, which involved members of the military, intelligence agencies and the Mafia?

den truths will ever reach the public domain. Information is power and the U.S Government is not in the business of giving away free lunches to anyone, including U.S taxpayers that have political clout.

When faced with an awkward enquiry, the normal U.S military response is to simply say that a search has turned up no documents related to that particular matter. An appeal by a persistent investigator on a hot trail may be met with a request for a huge

tions. In every case, the Pentagon simply disavowed all knowledge of the aircraft and said it didn't exist.

So, is it possible for the lone researcher to make any progress when dealing with entire departments of very clever people who spend every waking hour thinking of methods to conceal the truth from them? Of course it isn't!

Following the terrorist attacks on America, Attorney General John Ashcroft effectively suspended the FOIA. He suggested in a low-key memo that federal agencies should resist most Freedom of Information Act requests made by American citizens. (Presumably, totally ignoring those made by foreigners)

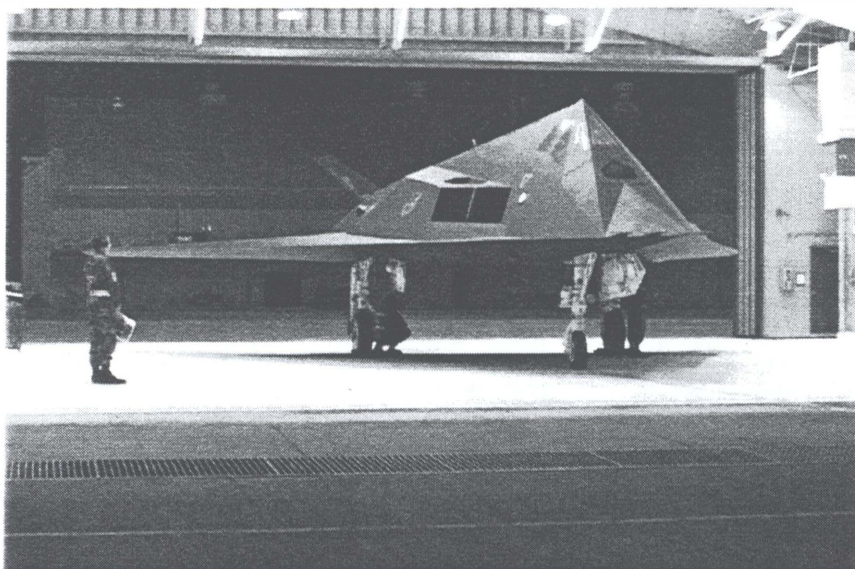
In Britain, we are no nearer having an FOIA, despite past pre-election promises, although we are routinely reminded that the U.K is an open democracy, run by people who want to see plenty of transparency.

Perhaps a U.K FOIA might tell us more about road planning disasters and NHS blunders, but I doubt if anything really startling will be uncovered about tricky defence, security or political issues.

Let me add that I have been told on two occasions during the last 20 years (by two separate well placed sources) that a system exists within the U.K to carefully prepare papers on "hot" issues for release in the distant future.

These sanitized documents are filed away at the P.R.O or held at other locations for a pre-defined period. When finally made public, they give the impression of being a true account of what took place, but the facts are now effectively re-written for all time.

Future researches often fail to understand why these documents have been kept secret for decades when they contain so little of value.



The F-117A Stealth attack aircraft that didn't officially exist before the USAF was forced to reveal it.

Of course, there are still researchers who believe the ultimate truth about aliens will be found in declassified USAF records. Some conspiracy theorists think the hidden details of the Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations and the political secrets of Pearl Harbor must eventually come to light.

But the U.S Government has always had the upper hand in these matters and it is hard to believe that any hid-

payment to undertake more detailed searches, with no set time limit.

In other instances where the applicant gets a little too close to the truth, the response has often been an outright denial. Prior to public disclosure of the F-117A Nighthawk stealth attack aircraft, its name and designation were in circulation amongst U.S defence contractors. This information finally leaked out to the public domain and led to several FOIA applica-

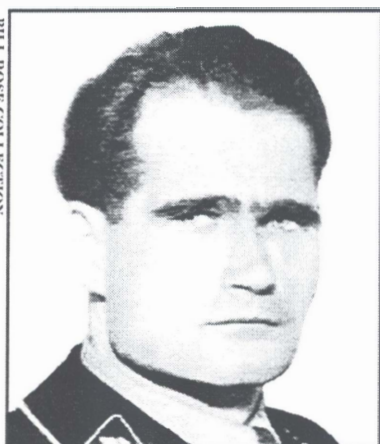
The stories they reveal are often trivial and sometimes almost farcical, but the reviewer may only be seeing a carefully prepared slice of a bigger carefully altered picture. In reality, no government can be certain what kind of political climate might exist twenty years down the road and "forward sanitization" is considered to be an essential safeguard.

Even half a century after some particularly awkward event has taken place, the truth can still be very damaging to the establishment. It is also likely that if you promise to release information in the future, this is enough to head off difficult questions arising in the aftermath of an awkward event.

We may never know why Rudolf Hess flew to Britain in 1941, or who arranged it. Perhaps it is true that most of the British Cabinet planned to make an unthinkable deal with Hitler and this is what Hess came to discuss.

Had things followed this route, we would probably now be within some single currency German run super-state. (Sounds vaguely familiar anyway, doesn't it?) Why were British identity cards issued during WW11 secretly marked to show if an individual was Jewish? Was there really a German commando raid thwarted at Shingle Street in Suffolk during 1941 and what was their target?

Was Steven Ward (the 60s Profumo Scandal) actually an MI5 asset? Will we ever be told the truth about the alleged Israeli commando raid on a



Deputy Leader of the Third Reich Rudolf Hess, who flew to Britain during 1941. Were the real circumstances of this bizarre episode covered up by the British and German governments?

British nuclear facility to steal plutonium, which is said to have taken place in during the 1960s?

Did MI5 topple the Wilson Administration in the 1970s? What is the truth about the Rendlesham Forest Incident and why did so many British defence workers die in truly bizarre circumstances during the 1980s-90s?

On a similar theme, anyone who has bothered to read what former MI6 agent Richard Tomlinson said about the death of Princess Diana will find his remarks deeply disturbing. Initially, I thought the idea of a conspiracy was absolute claptrap, but now, I begin to wonder if it was more than just a simple accident.

Who really shot the BBC TV presenter Jill Dando? Despite being convicted of her murder, there was no solid evidence that linked Barry George to the killing,



The very popular BBC TV presenter Jill Dando, who was shot dead on her doorstep in what appears to have been a highly professional assassination. Did Barry George really pull the trigger?

which had all the hallmarks of a highly organised professional assassination.

Is it possible that Jill Dando stumbled across something ultra-sensitive in the course of her work? Was the rather sad and clearly retarded Barry George set up as a patsy?

Many other European Union countries have dirty tricks departments who wouldn't think twice about sabotaging a ship like Rainbow Warrior or arranging the murder of an exceedingly troublesome Green politician like Petra Kelly.

British politicians will tell you with a very earnest look that cover-ups and

BILL ROSE COLLECTION



When Tony Blair took power from the Tories, the British public expected changes. But essentially, it was business as usual.

conspiracies don't happen very often. "I subscribe to the cock-up theory," is almost the standard reply when faced with this question.

Well, cover-ups do happen all the time, usually to conceal ill judged decisions made by inept government officials, serious corruption, the embarrassing activities of ministers who refuse to practice what they preach. I would also suggest that entire Government departments are occasionally "out of control."

You don't necessarily agree? You think that most branches of the Civil Service remain accountable, even if politicians bend the rules occasionally. Then let me mention an article by Andrew Cavenagh, which appeared in the Daily Telegraph during 1990. He said that according to leaked secret documents, the Ministry of Defence had contingency plans to intentionally mislead the public on health dangers if a serious nuclear weapon accident took place in Britain.

Would this also apply to a major reactor accident or a deadly chemical spillage? Probably.

From my own point of view, I would not have spent several days outdoors painting my house at the time of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, had I been properly advised about the facts.

As for those areas of pasture in various parts of the UK that would have to remain out of bounds for decades because of caesium contamination, this concern seemed to have quietly vanished.

During the same period, some scien-

tists were expressing genuine worries that unleaded fuel using performance boosting aromatic benzene (as a tetra-ethyl-lead substitute) was highly carcinogenic. But these fears simply evaporated, along with the troublesome high nitrate levels in drinking water found in some regions of Britain. Got a leukaemia cluster in your neighbourhood? Just look on it as a statistical blip. The moral often seems to be, "out of sight, out of mind." The public has a stunningly short memory and maybe that's why politicians of all persuasions regard them as sheep.

When I was a schoolboy in the 1950s, there were regular promises of a golden era ahead, when nuclear energy would solve all our problems.

Actually the push was on to generate plutonium for atomic weapons, but virtually free electricity in the future sounded much better, especially after years of appalling smog.

By the late 1970s, the Conservative Party was making promises to free us from the ghastly burden of local government taxation. What a mess that turned into and we are now stuck with ever-rising Council Tax, coupled to ever worsening local services.

Hints were also forthcoming that National Insurance contributions would be sensibly integrated with Income Tax, while the TV Licence and Road Tax would be abolished. Was there really any chance of the British government making any of these unpleasant forms of indirect taxation more palatable? You must be joking!

So after years of dictatorial Thatch-

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



Hated by many, loved by some, Margaret Thatcher promised much but failed to deliver.

erism, people turned to Tony Blair, hoping for a new deal. Amongst many other things, Blair's party promised a Freedom of Information Act, a swift ban on blood sports and immediate action to put the NHS, police and railways back on their feet without the need for massive tax rises.

Instead, the new administration gave voters the highest taxes in modern British history, swept away numerous civil liberties and pushed many of Britain's essential services into free-fall. Now they are demanding even more money to put the NHS right.

From the 1970s onwards, there were claims that U.S. agencies like the CIA, had repeatedly meddled in the affairs of foreign countries and had become involved with narcotics trafficking into the U.S. to fund special projects.

Then there was Oliver North and the Contra Scandal, followed by Noriega and BCCI, which many people in high places now regard as thankfully dead and buried.

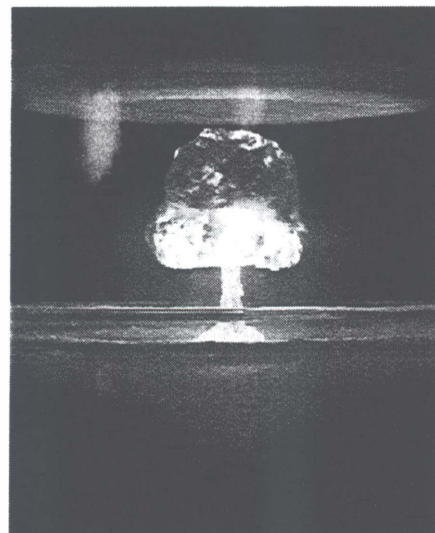
How many countries have nuclear weapons in our increasingly dangerous world? Better for all, if this information is kept under wraps. Someone exploded what appears to have been a nuclear device in the Sea of Japan on April 9 1984 and the mushroom cloud reportedly reached an altitude of 20 miles. The USAF/DoD Vela satellites must have recorded the event and it is a documented fact that four commercial airliners that later arrived in Anchorage were tested for radioactive contamination by the USAF.

Nothing more was said about this incident, but the U.S. was deeply concerned about the nuclear ambitions of Taiwan and Japan at that time and both countries had all the expertise required to build complex thermonuclear weapons. (Probably South Korea too)

This is not the only mysterious nuclear explosion in recent times and one was picked up in October 1979 by a Vela satellite. It took place in the Indian Ocean and was probably a joint experiment between South Africa and Israel.

Of course, according to many experts, neither possessed nuclear weapons at that time, so it was probably a case of Western Governments keeping the lid on that very nasty can of atomic worms. Perhaps Saddam's alleged underground nuclear test in 1989 was just another dark nuclear secret.

U.S DoD



How many clandestine nuclear tests have been conducted by countries without these weapons?

BLOWN AWAY

'Control of information; the constant revision of history.'

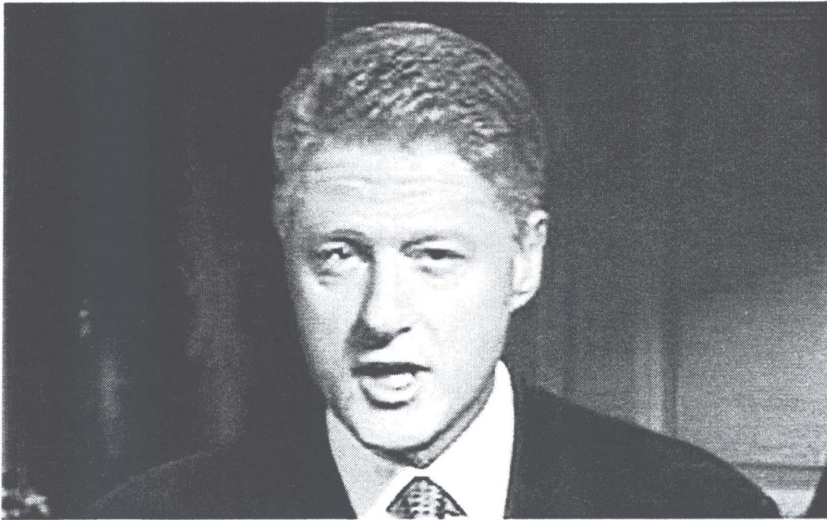
George Orwell 1947.

'I plan to introduce sweeping health reforms,' promised Bill Clinton prior to becoming U.S. President. This may have been the main reason why he secured the White House, but the reforms never came and it was essentially business as usual. During the next eight years, there were the usual cover-ups, denials and broken promises. There was increased secrecy at Area 51 Groom Lake and the alleged accidental shoot-down of an airliner (TW800) by a U.S. Navy missile, which was dismissed as an electrical fault which caused the central fuel tank to explode.

Few investigative journalists believed that the U.S. cruise missile hits on the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during 1999 were unintentional and the suspicion remains that Chinese technicians had been assisting the Serbs in their efforts to track U.S. stealth aircraft.

As for the U.S. lead NATO bombing in Kosovo, it appears that more civilians were killed than Serb troops and we are still waiting to see all that evidence of massive Serb atrocities in the region.

I've always looked on Bill Clinton as a great speaker and likable Democrat leader, but the way he handled the



President Bill Clinton lied to the American public about his relationship with Monika Lewinski. What else did he conceal as a matter of White House policy?



"The Hug." This videotape frame of Bill Clinton embracing Monika Lewinski, was later used in evidence against him.

Monica Lewinski affair was poorly judged and demonstrated his willingness to lie when backed into a tight corner, just like Jeffrey Archer.

In the truth game, corporations fare little better than government, with sneaky underhand trade protection measures and the crystal clear message that there is no sentiment in business.

One particular Detroit car manufacturer is said to have recently decided that a potentially lethal fault with one of its four-wheel drive vehicles should be left uncorrected. This decision was made by accountants, who estimated that it was cheaper to settle claims through the U.S. courts than make production changes.

Then we should not forget all those tobacco companies who've known for decades that they were selling a product that killed people in a very unpleasant manner.

Never admit you have a problem with your product has become the universal corporate motto. Promise

the Earth when you start a new service like satellite/digital TV or low cost Internet access and then screw the customers when they are fully hooked.

Many years ago, companies and governments learnt how to manipulate statistics and tell the public that figures proved what a tremendous deal they were getting.

Wording like "the underlying rate," or "in real terms," are total garbage and can be taken with a pinch of salt. Proper surveys depend on how the questions are phrased, who's asked, how big the sample is and how truthfully the ques-



BILL ROSE

Would you be willing to lie on a C.V. if it meant securing a well-paid, really interesting job?

In Jeffery Archer's position would you lie to protect your career if the tabloid gutter press caught you out, but lacked sufficient hard evidence to make their story stick?

tions are answered. We've all heard these claims before.

Unemployment is falling, just like hospital waiting lists. (Especially during the last U.K. General Election)

Crime figures are down and police recruitment has shown a dramatic increase, while the Euro is essential to commerce and Britain should have it. School examination results continue to improve under the current administration, although they don't mention that many exam papers have been dumbed-down and some of the people writing the questions are incompetent.

I honestly believe that it is now considered acceptable by members of many organisations to mislead the public whenever it is the most effective option.

If you adopt a policy of questioning the nightly TV news and attempt to read between the lines, the hidden reality begins to take shape and the "spin with everything and blatant lies" will start to show through. Perhaps the glass is half empty, or perhaps it's half full? Well it depends on which sounds better to your media consultants.

I could continue on this general theme for many more pages, perhaps looking at showbiz and the clergy, where all manner of deceitful and often disgusting cover-ups have taken place. However, I think I've now outlined my case.

A CLANCY STYLE COUNTDOWN

"Those who have knowledge, don't predict. Those who predict, don't have knowledge."

Lao Tzu, 6th Century BC Chinese Poet

Last month, it emerged that President Bush had been warned during a CIA briefing on August 6 2001 that Islamic extremists were planning to hijack airliners and undertake suicide attacks on several key U.S. targets.

The FBI also raised concerns that Arab suspects were learning to fly airliners at U.S. flight schools and one Minneapolis FBI agent (in an email) described a French-Moroccan immigrant called Zaccarias Moussaoui as, "someone who might fly a jumbo jet into the World Trade Center!"

The Bush Administration insists that following these briefings, the warning



The worst terrorist incident of all time. Two airliners smash into the WTC killing thousands of innocent victims. The events of this day will have a significant effect on the course of world history and many things will never be the same again.

of a possible attack was passed to airports, law enforcement agencies and the military, although the White House says this kind of alert occurs on a routine basis..

Clearly these warnings did not receive a high priority, despite the fact that rumours of an imminent terrorist attack on a major U.S target were widespread within the New York Moslem community and overseas.

What more, there had already been two unsuccessful attempts to hijack airliners and use them in suicide operations, which received virtually no publicity. The first attempt linked to al-Qaeda took place in France during 1994 and the second was in the Philippines, the following year.

On this occasion, the organiser was passed to the CIA for interrogation.

So, was there a real lapse in security and were the American public let down by the authorities? This question remains unanswered, but a growing number of conspiracy theorists believe that these events were allowed to proceed so the Bush Administration could settle a number of Middle Eastern issues, introduce stern new anti-terrorism measures, get their missile defence programme up and running and fix things in Asia for the major U.S oil companies.

Immediately after the attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, there were claims that in excess of 10,000 people had been killed. This dropped to around 7000, which re-

Evidently, the spin-doctors wanted to portray the 911 "Day of Infamy," with as much impact as possible and whip up maximum public outrage. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was quick to climb onto the bandwagon, suggesting that many hundreds of Britons had been killed in the WTC.

The U.K death toll was finally revised downwards to about 69. However, initial high estimates had eliminated any public objection to Britain's involvement in America's new war.

Also rather conveniently, a very substantial British military presence was in the Gulf undertaking exercises and they would be available for operations if a deal could not be made with the Afghan Northern Alliance.

The plan to attack targets within Afghanistan was initially called Operation Infinite Justice by the Pen-



mained the estimate until late December 2001 when a more realistic figure of about 2,900 was issued. This stood until February 2002 when it was once more revised down to 2,843. Much the same had happened during the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, when estimates of victims were finally downgraded by more than 100.

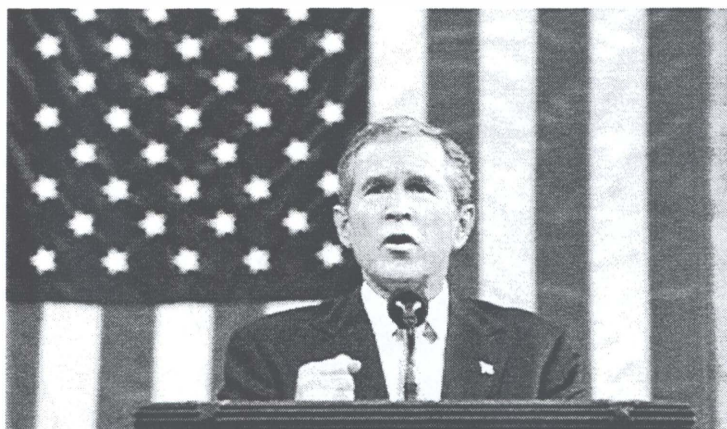
tagon, but it was quickly changed to Enduring Freedom as the original title proved offensive to Moslems.

Perhaps more surprising was the fact that a top secret proposal for a secret 10 year U.S lead war against Afghanistan had already been completed, which was called Operation Noble Eagle. (Later

used for U.S. homeland defence)

Anyone wondering what might happen in the immediate run-up to a third world war, saw much of the plan unfold on that day. The first action was to ground all civil aircraft across the North American continent. (Including Canada) This was known as Security Control of Air Traffic and Navigation Aids, or the Scatana Directive.

Within a matter of minutes, U.S. strategic military forces were placed on DEFCON 3. This is the highest alert since the 1973 Israeli-Arab War, which (at one point) came dangerously close to a tactical nuclear confrontation between unacknowledged Soviet forces



WHITE HOUSE

Following the 911 attacks, Airforce One secretly took GWB to Louisiana

and the Israelis.

In addition to operating at DEFCON 3, all U.S. facilities around the world were placed on FPCON (Force Protection Condition) "Delta" which is the highest level of security alert.

Immediately after the 911 attacks, George W. Bush boarded Air Force One in Florida and headed towards Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado, but there was a change of plan and it was decided to land at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana, which is home to the USAF's second, previously secret strategic command centre. With his movements being kept secret, Bush was then taken to Offutt AFB near Omaha, Nebraska.

At the same time, Vice President Dick Cheney was hurriedly transported to the Presidential Emergency Operations Center (PEOC), which is a hardened bunker buried beneath the East Wing of the White House.

Other senior government officials in Washington D.C. were taken to designated landing sites and flown in Marine Corps helicopters to a secret facility thought to be the High Point

Special Facility, within Mount

Weather near Berryville, Virginia which was completed in the late 1990s at a cost in excess of \$1 billion.

Other officials were transported to Site R, which has the name Alternate Joint Communications Center. Site R is a backup for the Pentagon and is located inside Raven Rock Mountain near Camp David. Cheney may have moved there some hours after the attack.

U.S. facilities around the world were locked down and I know from personal experience this applied to RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, (the USAF's main F-15 base in England) where security was tightened to an unprecedented wartime level. The normally very busy perimeter

road between Brandon and Barton Mills was closed and extra checkpoints were set up, manned by USAF guards and British police.

These precautions seem to have paid off, because six Iraqi nationals were detained as they attempted to enter RAF Lakenheath in a truck. The story was subsequently reported on the regional TV news, but didn't go much further. As for the fate of these Iraqis and the German driver of their truck, nothing has been heard about them since.

Perhaps for understandable security



WHITE HOUSE



Vice President Dick Cheney was hurriedly transported to a secret underground bunker following the 911 attacks.

reasons, the DoD moved swiftly to prevent sales to the media of one-metre resolution IKONOS satellite images by Space Imaging. This was achieved quite legally, by simply offering them an exclusive deal they couldn't refuse, or for that matter talk about.

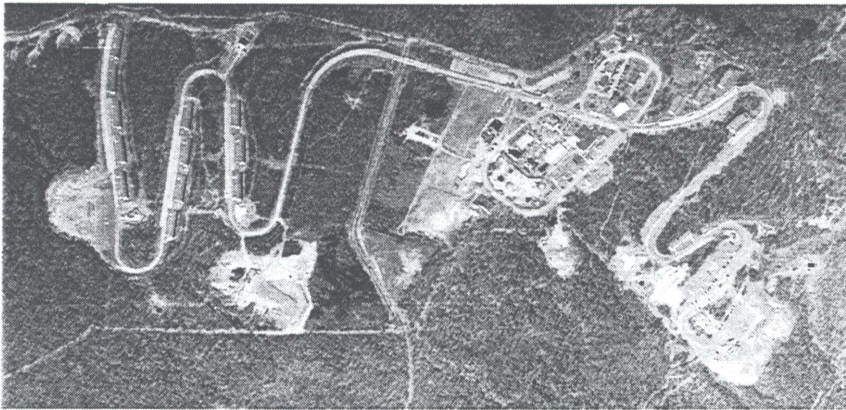
The White House was now trying to impose tight controls on the media, telling them not to rebroadcast reports originating from al-Qaeda and limiting access of classified information to certain Congressmen.

As plans were drawn up for stunningly draconian anti-terrorist measures, parts of the National Guard were mobilised and the American nation was gripped by a sense of shock and panic.

FBI raids were conducted against suspect organisations across America, starting with the Arab Internet provider InfoCom Corp, based in Dallas.

Other U.S. Internet sites were quickly scrutinized and locations with sensitive information on nuclear facilities, fuel or chemical storage were told to close down. Then pressure was put on ISPs to eliminate unpatriotic material.

While all this was taking place, suspects were detained and many or-



The Top Secret High Point Facility at Mount Weather near Berryville

dinary citizens were questioned about their religious and political beliefs.

Day after day, events continued to unfold like a Tom Clancy novel and there was more drama on the TV news that in Bruce Willis's movie "The Siege," which dealt with Middle Eastern terrorism in New York.

The public's reaction was a far cry from the way it would have been during the late Vietnam era when strict security measures would have been denounced as Stalinist by the majority of the U.S population, undoubtedly leading to protest marches on the capital.

Now there were issues of patriotism at stake and not surprisingly, it generated calls from extremists to "nuke those crazy rag-heads!"

On both sides of the Atlantic there were racially motivated attacks and many Mosques were firebombed. Nearly all of this went unreported by

the media and it is clear that newspaper and TV editors were requested to suppress reports of civil unrest.

Right across Britain, tensions ran high, especially in northern towns like Bradford, which had been plagued by race riots earlier in the year. Back in the 1980's it was realised that TV coverage of major unrest in largely ethnic areas was guaranteed to make things worse, so later acts of disorder like the Poll Tax Riots, ongoing trouble in Northern Ireland and the anti-capitalist demonstrations received much less TV coverage in the U.K.

It would seem that the Home Office asked the high profile media to largely ignore racial trouble generated by the attacks on America and of course, there are many who would regard this as sensible course of action to take.

OUT OF THE BLUE

"The armed forces did not shoot down any aircraft. When it became clear what the threat was, we did scramble fighter aircraft. We never actually had to use force."

USAF Gen. Richard Myers
Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee

Besides the attacks on the WTC and Pentagon, there may have been three or four other planned hijackings, which failed for one reason or another.

Additional attacks on British, Canadian and Australian targets using airliners are understood to have been abandoned when security was tightened and a separate attempt to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago using several fuel laden trucks, is thought to have been thwarted by the FBI.

Perhaps the biggest mystery to arise from the September 11 series of hijackings was the fate of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania.

The Boeing 757-200, carrying 38 passengers and a crew of 7, left Newark at approximately 8am for San Francisco and crashed two hours later near a reclaimed strip mine at Stony Creek near Shanksville, a small town, south-east of Pittsburgh.

Passengers on Flight 93 made frantic calls with their mobile phones to report the hijacking. Some learnt that the WTC had been hit and some of the passengers formulated a hasty plan to attack the hijackers and attempt to gain control of the airliner.

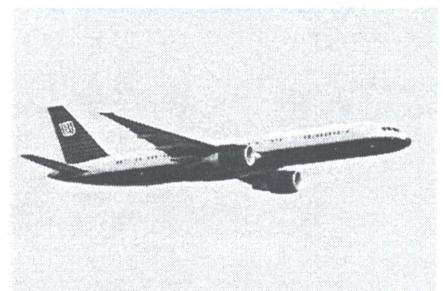
At 9.24am, 3 fully armed F-16 jets belonging (it is believed) to the North Dakota Air National Guard 119th fighter Wing were scrambled from Langley AFB, Virginia on direct orders from NORAD. (North American Air Defence)

The fighters over-flew the centre of Washington D.C and the pilots would have seen smoke rising from the Pentagon at 9.38am. No doubt they were then undoubtedly advised about the developing situation.

By 9.45am at the latest, the pilots had received Presidential authority via "Huntress" sector control at NORAD to intercept and if necessary shoot down Flight 93, which was known to be in terrorist hands. (Later identified as four ruthless Islamic hijackers lead by Ziad Jarrah)

The 757 continued to fly in their general direction and refused to respond to requests made by air traffic controllers. At this point, one of the three F-16s is believed to have changed course, engaged its afterburner and headed towards the airliner at supersonic speed. It finally made a

VIA PETER THORPE

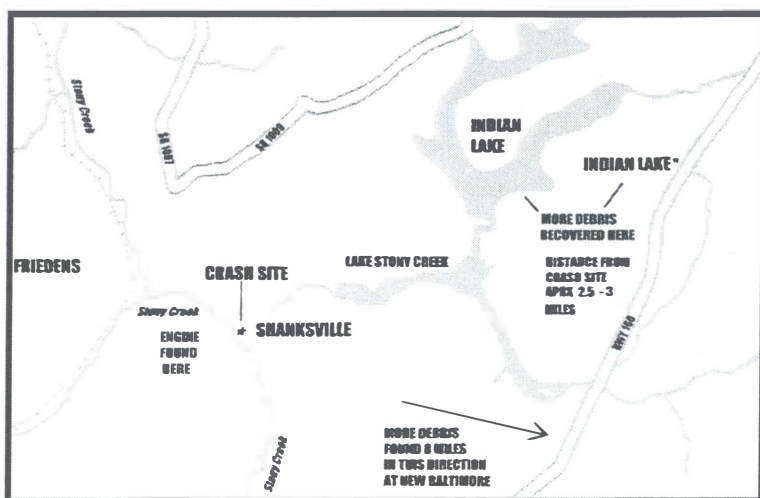


The United Airlines Boeing 757 which crashed in Pennsylvania

To Those Responsible

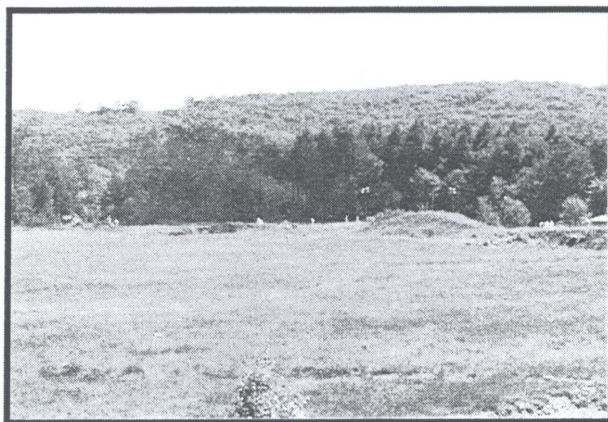


This artwork by an unknown artist is typical of what was in circulation around the Internet following the attacks on America in September 2001



Above: a map showing the crash sites around Shanksville.

Right: The main crash site, shortly after the event. Very little large debris remained after the high speed impact of the airliner in this exposed area.



complete turn and fell in behind the 757, which had its transponder disabled, but was still being tracked by civil radar and the military network operated by NORAD.

Travelling at about 550 MPH, the fuel laden, 160 ton Boeing 757 was just 15 minutes away from numerous major targets that included three nuclear power plants, the White House and many key Federal buildings.

FAA Air Traffic Controllers at Nashua, NH, followed developments closely and later reported that an F-16 had closed in behind Flight 93, presumably to reliable missile launch range.

Just moments before the crash, a man called the 911 emergency services in Pennsylvania and announced that he was speaking from the plane on his mobile phone. "We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked," he said, then went on to tell the 911 dispatcher that the plane was "going down." He said he had heard an explosion and saw white smoke.

Some witnesses on the ground, who saw Flight 93 pass overhead, claimed the airliner was brought down with a missile and several residents at

Shanksville, Somerset County,

insist they saw flaming debris fall from the sky.

One of the engines hit the ground at a considerable distance from the main crash site and the 757 was literally vaporised when it impacted. Floating debris from the plane was recovered at Indian Lake, approximately two to three miles from the crash site. More material from the aircraft was found near New Baltimore, which is about 8 miles southeast of the crash site. Descriptions of this debris all mention very small thumbnail or rivet sized pieces, often showing signs of being burnt.

The FBI suggested that light debris was carried by the wind from the crash site and NOAA records show a local wind speed on that day of 7-8 knots, with gusts up to 13 knots. This fits in with the FBI's theory, except that the wind was blowing in the wrong direction, which is confirmed by the burn pattern seen in aerial photographs of the crash site. The only possible explanation would seem to suggest that the aircraft broke up before impact.

It remains easy to believe the airliner was shot down with an air-to-air missile, fired from the pursuing F-16.

Not surprisingly, there have been suggestions that the engine separation can be explained by the impact of a heat seeking missile (such as an AIM-9 Sidewinder) which homed in on its hot exhaust.

Immediately after the event, there was widespread anticipation that the White House would verify that the airliner was shot down.

However, the media was steered away from the issue and within a couple of days, the administration was promoting the idea that a band of passengers had tried to overpower the hijackers, but were unable to control the aircraft. From a military viewpoint, there may have been no alternative to shooting down the airliner.

The plane had circumnavigated Pittsburgh and was definitely heading towards Washington. The hijackers had a major target in mind and there was absolutely no doubt they would crash the plane into it.

Even if ground controllers had received a call to say that the hijackers had been overpowered, there would be no way of knowing for certain if this was true and furthermore, the plane would probably have been beyond the passengers control if the flight crew were dead.

The majority of the U.S public would probably accept that a shoot down over open countryside was the only responsible course of action open to the authorities, but the White House may have initially decided that a number of potential difficulties could be sidestepped with a cover-up and there would be no awkward distractions from the terrible terrorist acts of September 11th.

It began to look like as if this was exactly what happened, because there was still no detailed report on the



General Richard Myers and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld brief the press on developments at the Pentagon.

USAF

USAF



crash and the FBI seems eager to wrap things up as quickly as possible. Exactly why the FBI felt it was necessary to withhold crucial information provided by analysis of the flight data recorders remains a mystery. The USAF could have assisted with testimony from the pilot of the pursuing F-16.

Why the FBI only released a garbled few seconds from the Flight 93 CVR (Cockpit Voice Recorder) after the crash remains unclear and they must have known that doing this would fuel speculation.

During December 2001, the U.S. organisation "Accuracy in Media," made an FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request to the FBI asking for a full transcript of the CVR recovered from Flight 93. They rejected the application, insisting that the details were exempt from disclosure because they might interfere with enforcement proceedings.

Then an FBI spokesman announced that the CVR was being withheld from relatives because, "we do not believe that the horror captured on the cockpit voice recording will console them in any way." This doesn't explain why the FDR (Flight Data Recorder) information also remained secret.

Faced with mounting legal pressure, the FBI reluctantly allowed relatives to hear the CVR in a private session at the Princeton Marriott Forrester Village Hotel, New Jersey, on April 18 2002. Unfortunately, the reported content of this recording does not clearly

indicate what took place in the cockpit and it fails to resolve the cause of the crash. This means that we still don't know exactly what happened onboard Flight 93 and until the authorities release all the remaining details, the suspicion of a cover up will continue.

The FBI was quick to eliminate the possibility of a bomb and it has been suggested that following a struggle between the hijackers and passengers/crew, nobody was able to control the aircraft and it plunged towards the ground.

Perhaps as a consequence, the 757 may have exceeded its structural design tolerances (a probable airframe limit of 6 g's has been suggested) and parts broke away from the wings and fuselage before impact. Nevertheless, a little more openness would have prevented the shootdown theory from ever developing.

There is no question that decisions were made on September 11 to shoot down any potentially hostile aircraft. We know that when President Bush arrived at Offutt AFB, NORAD was tracking an airliner inbound from Spain that had declared a hijacking. Bush was advised that F-15s were in the air on an intercept course and he gave immediate authorisation for them to shoot down the aircraft if necessary, although this turned out to be a false alarm. Something similar happened to a Korean Airlines 747, which declared a hijacking over Alaska and was escorted to a military air base by F-15s.

Several weeks later, a Russian Sibir

Airlines Tupolev Tu-154 was accidentally destroyed by a Ukrainian SA-5 (S-200) "Gammon" missile above the Black Sea, while flying from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk. Had this happened at another time, there might be less temptation to consider more sinister explanations. When pieces of wreckage were recovered, there was damage that looked like bullet holes in the cockpit area, but this might have been caused by blast shrapnel from a high explosive continuous rod warhead. Nevertheless, it is a little hard to accept that this aircraft was hit at extreme range by an errant missile fired during a training exercise and there are lingering doubts about what really happened.

A number of airliners have been shot down intentionally, such as a Libyan Boeing 737, which strayed into restricted Israeli airspace on February 21, 1973 and was destroyed by two IAF F-4E Phantoms. In 1983, the Soviets shot down a Korean 747 airliner that was perceived to be on a spying mission and on July 4, 1988 the U.S. Navy ship Vincennes shot down an Iranian A-300 Airbus crossing the Persian Gulf, which was mistakenly identified as a hostile F-14.

Perhaps even more puzzling, was the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 that had just left JFK in New York on November 12, 2001. Investigators were quick to suggest that the A300 Airbus en route to the Dominican Republic and carrying 246 passengers had been pulled apart by turbulence generated by a preceding

747, but witnesses on the ground did not accept this theory.

According to Tom Lynch, a retired fire fighter living at the crash site on Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, there was an explosion before the plane's tail came off and fell into Jamaica Bay.

"No tail fell off, not before the explosion. I swear to that," said Lynch. "It made a bank turn and suddenly there was an explosion, orange and black, on the right-hand side of the fuselage. It was a small explosion, about half the size of a car."

Jim Conrad, a retired police lieutenant confirmed the story. "First, the small explosion. The plane kept on going, tail intact, then the big explosion and the plane nose-dived.

This crash has all the hallmarks of another terrorist attack and we know from a later incident (when Richard Reid attempted to ignite two shoes filled with Pentrite explosive) that air-

800 to a Long Island junkyard, effectively bringing that highly charged affair to an end. So, in the present climate, we may see the details of Flight 93 and Flight 587 wrapped up with similar gusto and the truth carefully suppressed, perhaps for all time.

SOME LOSERS - MANY WINNERS

"I don't recall that I've ever lied to the press, I don't intend to, and it seems to me that there will not be reason for it."

*Secretary of Defense
Donald Rumsfeld*

*U.S. Department of Defense News
Briefing
September 25, 2001*



WHITE HOUSE

Putin and Bush reach a wide range of agreements on Afghanistan

port security remains far from perfect.

If the Flight 587 crash was another act of terrorism, there may have been intense pressure to cover up the details. The financial damage to the airline industry has been colossal and airport security cannot be improved much further, unless you want to strip search every passenger, manacle them to their seats during the flight and ban all luggage.

Was the crash of Flight 587 another cover-up? Well, in December 2001 the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) hurriedly sent most of the wreckage from TWA Flight

While the U.S administration considered compulsory I.D cards, allowing the FBI to torture suspects and searches without warrants, the war in Afghanistan proceeded largely in secret. Ground combat involving U.S and British special forces was often fierce, with raids not always going as planned. Several American helicopters were lost in what were described as accidents.

Exact combat losses of personnel remain unknown, but the first official U.S fatality occurred in January 2002. Then at the beginning of March 2002, the U.S lost at least 7 soldiers when

one Chinook helicopter was shot down and another badly damaged near Gardez.

British casualties during the early campaign were also been played down, but it is known that at least four seriously injured SAS soldiers were flown back to England in late 2001 and taken to a secure unit within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Birmingham.

Members of the Northern Alliance executed four journalists in late 2001 and the news of this was completely played down by the western media, along with detailed information about the massacre of several hundred Taliban prisoners at Mazar-e Sharif and the death of CIA operative Mike Spann.

But the war had turned in America's favour before the end of 2001, once deals had been struck with the Russians to supply the Northern Alliance with reconditioned T-55 tanks, a wide range of other military paraphernalia and probably extra manpower. These arrangements made between the Americans and Russians have clearly been highly beneficial to both parties.

The Russians are set to become the controllers of oil and gas within Central Asia and they will play a dominant future role in Iraq, irrespective of who ends up running the country.

In coming years, Russian oil companies like Lukoil and Yukos could become as powerful as BP or Exxon-Mobil, achieving a greater output than Saudi Arabia by 2010.

"The Russians have realised you can make more money by real capitalism than by stealing," said J. Robinson West, chairman of Petroleum Finance.

In exchange for backing George W. Bush, Russian President Vladimir Putin also secured a free hand to deal with Muslim Fundamentalist Rebels in Chechnya as he wished. Subsequently, reports began to emerge in early 2002 that the Russians were using overwhelming force against predominantly civilian targets.

Both Bush and Cheney were powerful players in the oil business before taking office and during his time as chief executive of the Haliburton Oil Corporation, Cheney expressed a strong interest in the construction of a pipeline across Afghanistan if the political climate changed.

So, it didn't come as much of a surprise when President Bush appointed the Afghan-born Zalmay Khalilzad, as



U.S Special Forces search a Taliban fighter who has been captured at Mazar-e Sharif

special envoy to Afghanistan on the last day of 2001.

A former executive with the U.S oil giant Unocal, Khalilzad had already been heavily involved in multi-corporate plans for a pipeline from the former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan to the Indian Ocean.

Then last, but not least the Northern Alliance undoubtedly secured the right to continue with their lucrative trade as major heroin suppliers to the Western World.

THE BUGS FROM HELL

"Terrorists aim to cause terror, and in this they have succeeded, up to a point. The run on Cipro at pharmacies demonstrates that.

**Richard Butler, former U.N Chief Weapons Inspector
October 19 2001**

Following the terrorist attacks on America, a wave of genuine fear swept across the Western World as letters began to arrive at the offices of U.S politicians and media personalities containing deadly anthrax.

Much, turned out to be fine, high-grade weaponised anthrax designed to attack the pulmonary system and this military agent is significantly more potent than the original disease, which occurs in cattle.

Because of its refined nature, many assumed that the anthrax had been created by a hostile power like Iraq

and supplied to a terrorist group like al-Qaeda.

This act of bioterrorism caused widespread public anxiety, shut down many federal offices and at one point, it almost brought the U.S postal service to a standstill.

Hoaxers took immediate advantage of the situation and old scores were settled with nothing more than an anonymous envelope containing a few grams of talcum powder. Abortion clinics were targeted across America by pro-life fanatics and dramatic measures were introduced to tackle the problem. Mass screenings were hastily introduced, large quantities of vaccines and antibiotics like Cipro were stockpiled and expensive irradiation equipment was introduced to sterilise mail sent to VIPs.

Although the general public had linked the anthrax attacks to bin Laden or Iraq, there was absolutely no proof of this. Five anthrax victims died, many government offices were sealed-off for decontamination and then, the attacks suddenly stopped.

Who had been behind them and what was the motive? The scale of the attack suggested careful organisation and hinted at a group, as opposed to a lone nut like the Unabomber.

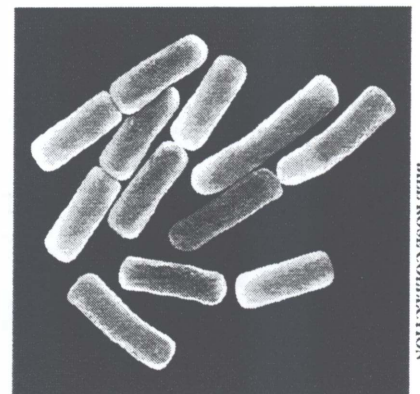
As a distraction from other matters, it certainly worked and little more was heard about Colin Powell's "White Paper" on bin Laden's organisation. It then came to light that the anthrax used in the attacks was identical in all respects to the "Ames Strain," that

was developed by the U.S Military in the 1950s before America gave up biological weapons.

Was there a much darker reality to all this? Had someone tried to reinforce public opinion and negate any criticism of President Bush's "War on Terrorism?"

Some of the hijackers who trained as pilots had been based in Florida near the first victim and they allegedly looked at crop dusting aircraft. Now, there would no budgetary restraints on protecting the homeland and the administration could easily sidestep parts of the constitution without criticism.

Then in November 2001, Dr. Benito Que, who working on deadly diseases at the Miami Medical School was found dead in mysterious circumstances outside his laboratory. By



BILL ROSE COLLECTION

Bacillus Anthracis-Anthrax, a microscopic view of the deadly agent that was unleashed on America

January 2002, four other leading experts in microbiology had also died in very strange ways and although the police arrested suspects for one murder during February 2002, there are similarities to the bizarre British Marconi Deaths that occurred throughout the 1980s.

Set Van Nguyen was one of these microbiologists who died during an airlock accident in Australia where a new ultra-deadly form of smallpox had been accidentally created during an experiment.

Perhaps Nguyen's death was just a mishap, but it is believed he was related to a woman hospital worker who died of anthrax in New York called Kath Nguyen. She had no obvious exposure to the disease.

Perhaps the most astonishing fact to emerge is that no less than five world-class microbiologists were travelling on the Russian airliner that was shot down by a supposedly errant Ukrainian missile in October 2001. Furthermore, two top Israeli microbiologists

had already died in mysterious circumstances, associated with Palestinian unrest.

Then, on February 11th 2002, the body of Dr Ian Langford, a senior British research scientist at UEA was found at his home in Norwich. His house appeared to have been ransacked and a post mortem failed to establish the exact cause of death. The Police finally concluded that wounds to his body were either self-inflicted or sustained accidentally and there were no suspicious circumstances to the case.

Two weeks later, Tanya Holtzmeyer - an exiled Russian microbiologist living in San Francisco was shot dead by another microbiologist who killed himself. Dr David Wynn-Williams of the British Antarctic Survey was the next leading British microbiologist to die as a result of a freak car accident during March 2002 at Cambridge.

Later that month, Steve Mostow of the Colorado Health Sciences Center was killed when his private plane crashed near Denver.



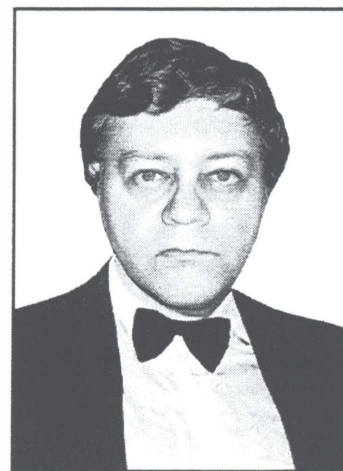
Dr David Wynn-Williams, who died in a freak traffic accident, while out jogging.

In Russia, three leading microbiologists have been murdered in recent months and the latest of these was Professor V. Korshunov who headed the microbiology sub-faculty of the RSMU.

Towards the end of February 2002, the FBI announced they were on the trail of a suspect who worked on U.S biological weapons in the past. However, the FBI seems to have made no progress with their enquiries.

So were some of these deaths linked together in an international conspiracy, or did these scientists become aware of a deadly black operation taking place in their midst?

The truth is often out there, but you just have to dig for it!



Bill Rose is a space and aviation writer as well as a photojournalist. He is currently the managing editor of Strange Times Magazine.



Dr Ian Langford's small terraced house in Norwich where he was found dead on February 11, 2002.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

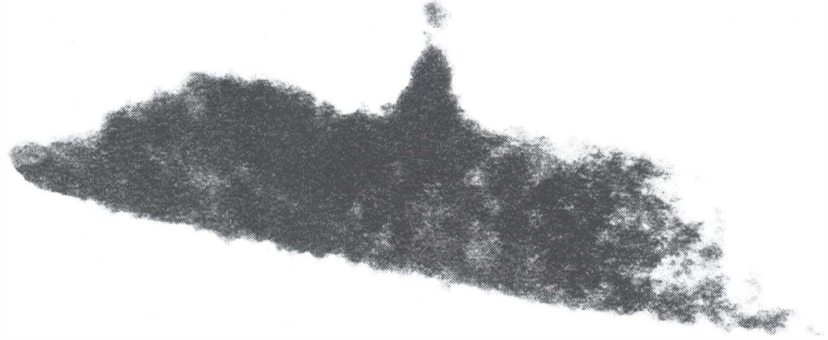
UK UFOLOGY COMES OF AGE

Dave Clarke and myself have been UFO researchers for over 35 years between us. During that time we have done a great deal of research into the UFO phenomenon and related areas and have been involved in numerous books, TV documentaries and UFO magazines. However, about two years ago we had a complete re-think of our approach to the subject. Believing ufology to be American dominated (check out any UFO Encyclopedia or general UFO book, you'll find it contains mostly American cases) we thought that ufology in the UK was in danger of being subsumed into a larger cultural whole from which it is actually quite separate and distinct. In addition it is almost impossible to carry out research into American cases due to distance both temporal and physical. As a result of this change in focus we decided to go back to the beginnings of UK ufology and to concentrate exclusively on its' development and to take a fresh look at the subject.

This has involved many days at both the Public Record Office, the National Newspaper Library at Colindale and thousands of miles travelling the length of the British Isles interviewing primary witnesses and ex government officials from the 1950s and beyond.

The results have been staggering and in the course of our investigations we have made several major breakthroughs such as:

- a.. Discovery of the 'lost' Flying Saucer Working Party document - the UK's first and possibly only official UFO study
- b.. An interview with the head of that Working Party
- c.. The acquisition of the official UK government file on the Rendlesham Forest Incident
- d.. Evidence that the War Office and Air Ministry investigated WWII 'foofighters', together with many new accounts of that phenomenon
- a.. Evidence of the UK government's



ANDY ROBERTS

interest in 'ghost rockets'
b.. Astounding details of an RAF operation to track a UFO in January 1947 - before UFOs and flying saucers made the world's press
c.. Amazing revelations of interest at the highest level of government, royalty and aristocracy, including how Lord Mountbatten and Prince Philip were deeply involved in the subject of UFOs.

This is just a tiny fraction of the information we have uncovered and it is true to say that over 90% of the book is new and original material. We have taken great pains to go back to original witnesses and documents where possible without having to rely on the distortions which have crept into the subject. The information we have uncovered about government UFO policy and witness sightings will affect, forever, how you see the subject of ufology in the UK.

Our publishers were so amazed by the depth of research that they immediately commissioned a book on the subject.

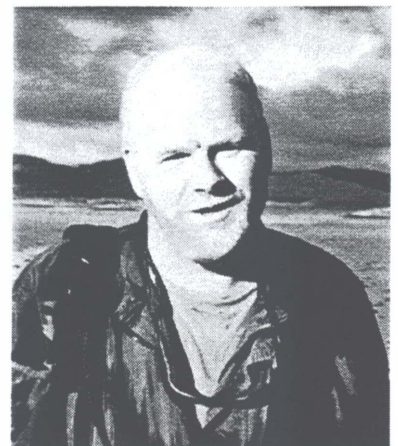
Out Of The Shadows: The MOD, the Establishment and the Official Cover Up is published in May by Piatkus Books. It can be pre-ordered on Amazon Books' website on:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/0749922907/202-7998690-0747833>

Radio 4 have already featured a documentary about our work which was broadcast on Thursday April 25th and the Discovery channel are currently making a documentary about our investigations, titled Secrets of Room 801

If you would like further information please go to our web site at flyingsaucery.co.uk

or email Andy Roberts at aj.roberts@blueyonder.co.uk



THE BEASTS OF HEXHAM

STUART FERROL



"The peasant and farmer both alike, turned out the dread intruder to assail, but sly and wary in his habits was, this young and vicious wolf of Allendale."

The Wolf of Allendale: Henry Barber 1905

At the turn of the last century on the edge of a busy northern town, at least one unseen ferocious predator was killing livestock and had started to scare the wits out of local residents.

Thought to have been eradicated from Britain, the wolf was far

from dead and had unexpectedly reappeared at Hexham, Northumberland. This rapidly developed into a terrifying situation that would finish as quickly as it started.

EDWARDIAN HEXHAM

At the beginning of the twentieth century Hexham and its environs were being dragged reluctantly into the modern era. The town itself was a hubbub of Victorian commerce, pomp and self improvement with its streets thronged with shops and inns, whilst its slum areas were rank with the smell of industrial waste and choked with the smoke of mass production.

The woodlands and countryside surrounding the town belonged to a more traditional and seemingly timeless era.

In these parts, many people kept their mythical beliefs alive and allowed them to regulate their lives.

This was a more trusting and less cynical time, when people accepted what they were told by the establishment without question.

The local newspaper, the "Hexham Courant" was full of adverts hocking "Dr William's Pink Pills For Pale People" and supposed testaments to the revelatory life benefits of laxatives. The people were fed with the political events taking place in London and the world from this Liberal biased newspaper. Unquestionably, they would hold onto every word written by the columnists who kept them informed about the activities of the British monarch and the surprising military victories of the Japanese in the Russia-Japan war.

On 10 December 1904, the focus of local press attention would move dramatically closer to home when the Hexham Courant carried a report with the headline, "Wolf at large in Allendale."

The newspaper reported that during the previous two or three weeks much commotion had been caused amongst the farmers on the higher parts of Hexhamshire, around the village of Allendale. Sheep had been disturbed, bitten and killed. In fact, the loss of livestock had become so serious that many farmers were now housing their animals.

Many sheep had been severely bitten on the neck and legs and a farmer called Harrison Heslop of Byrehope reported one instance when six sheep were badly injured. John Robson of Middlehope found two of his sheep slaughtered, while another sheep owned by farmer William Bell had been reduced to just its head and horns.

This worrying situation had all the hallmarks of a modern day American animal mutilation epidemic, although people's thoughts in this era were far from aliens undertaking bizarre medical experiments in the dead of night.

There was soon growing speculation that the most likely culprit was a lone wolf that had escaped from captivity. Indeed, a grey wolf had escaped from its owner Capt. Bain of Shotley Bridge three months earlier and he had offered a reward of £5 for its return.

This wolf was one year old, described as a big brute and clearly very dangerous. But was it the same beast that had been killing local sheep?

Some evidence seemed to support this theory and two local men had glimpsed a wolf in a plantation behind Allenheads School. This report brought around 150 local residents to Allenheads, many armed with guns. The area where the wolf had been sighted was carefully searched and nothing was found, apart from an area within a wide drain where it was thought the beast might have been sleeping.

On December 17th 1904, the wolf was thought to have travelled along the moors to Sipton Wood where a flock of sheep were attacked and several killed. The trail then led to Sinderhope and back to Sipton Wood.

A second search was organised and a one hundred strong group of armed men set out to find the wolf. This time, the beast was spotted, but it managed to elude the large party and disappeared into Slipton Woods.

The following day, an even larger armed group set out to track down this deadly predator which continued to kill sheep. However, despite their best efforts, the wolf managed to slip past them. It was now evident that the animal had relocated to Dukesfield Wood. The killing continued, but the wolf was able to evade the trackers with relative ease, it almost seemed to possess mystical powers.

Then it snowed and tracking the beast became easier, but it still outsmarted the hunters. Lights were lit at night to scare away the wolf and sheep were housed wherever possible. On Sunday night the wolf visited a wood owned by the Duke of Northumberland and then made a five-mile journey to Rid- ing Mill, sticking to woodland all the

way. Various sightings were made during the next few days, which were often contradictory, describing it as "black and tan" or "dun" coloured. After a period of quiet, the wolf made its way to Linnolds Wood and attacked more sheep, killing one and devouring most of it.

At this stage, the Haydon Hounds were brought in, but without success. With the situation become desperate, a "skilled Indian Game Hunter" was brought in and this was followed by the posting of a reward of £5 to anyone who could kill the beast.

The Indian Game Hunter Mr W. Briddick was interviewed by the Newcastle newspaper "The Evening Chronicle" about the offer made to him by the Farmer's Committee. He said his long Indian Game Hunting experience stood him in good stead to catch the beast. He claimed he would find the animal "on scientific lines."

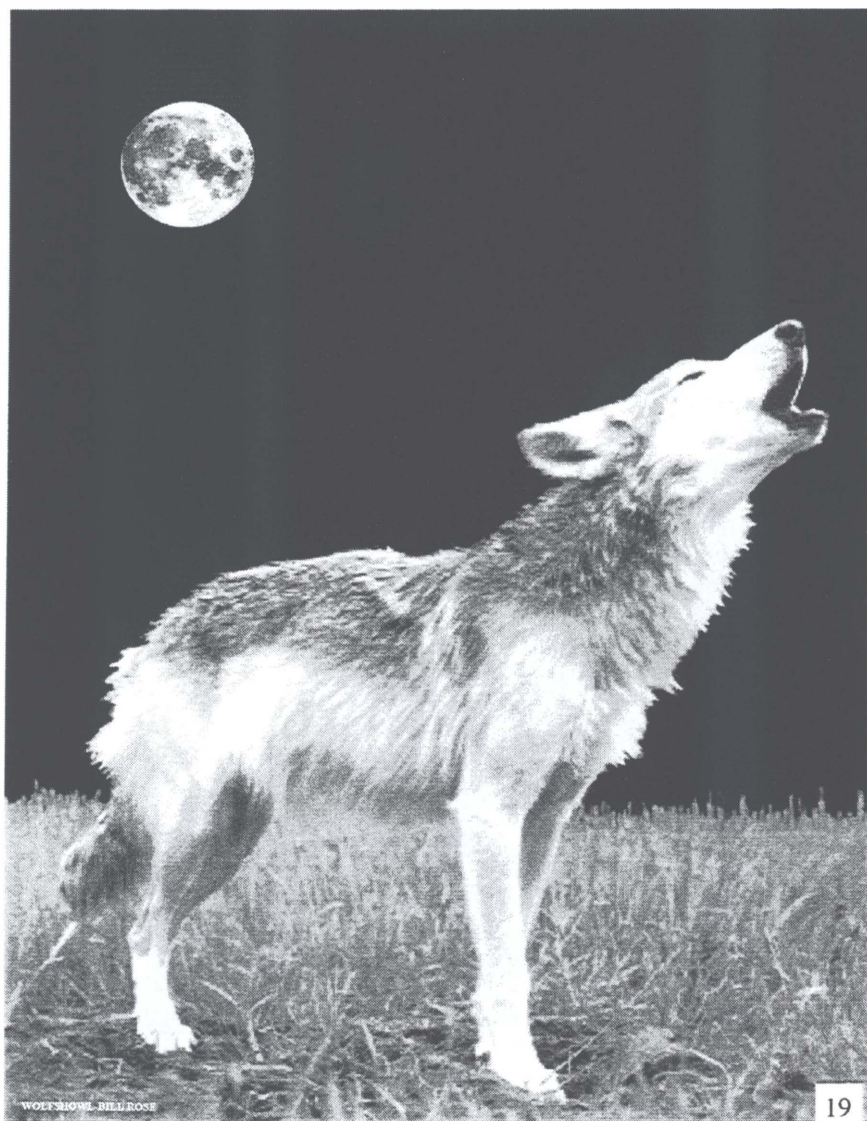
On 31st December the Hexham Courant mentioned an article in the Carlisle Journal which described a wolf

scare of nearly one hundred years previously (1810) near Ennerdale in what was then West Cumberland. The "t'Girt dog of Ennerdale" led a similar reign of terror. "It's size, it's ferocity and its uncanny behaviour were the theme of the countryside, and naturally its exploits did not lose in the telling."

For five months it roamed at will. Finally it was wounded and in a disabled condition, the beast was hunted down and destroyed. No one found out where it had come from.

The chase for the Wolf of Allendale continued unabated into early 1905 when a wolf's body was found on a railway line. But this was an entirely different animal and it was clear that more than one animal was involved. By now, there was growing national interest in the situation.

Local farmers were offered money by photographers and Taxidermists to inform them the moment it was caught. But by the end of January 1905, the reports had steeply



WOLF HOWL - BILL ROSE

diminished and interest began to wane. Finally the sightings and killings ceased altogether and the Wolf of Allendale was relegated to local history.

MODERN HEXHAM

We now move forward to the 21st Century and much has changed in Hexham during the intervening years. The town has evolved considerably and the emphasis is on shopping and tourism. The Hexham Courant is still the local newspaper, but now carries far less national and international news. However, there are strange almost supernatural things going on in the area which echo events that took place a century earlier.

On 3rd March 2000, the newspaper ran an article by James Marley called "In the Lair of the Wild Cat." He reported a series of recent sightings that suggested there were big potentially dangerous cats roaming in the area. Apparently, staff at a garage in Hexham had watched in astonishment as a labrador-sized black cat walked across a nearby field.

Much the same animal was seen a few days later by William Teasdale, who lives on the edge of the woodland beside Matfen golf course. He had seen a panther sized creature walk past his garden at a distance of about 30-40 yards. "It was black, about as big as a Labrador" he said. "I saw immediately that it was moving like a cat."

Ken Watts, a retired hotelier who had been collecting information on the big cat sightings, is quoted as saying it is not a black panther as widely believed. "From what I have seen of it, it would probably be living on rabbits, it may be able to take out a small lamb but certainly not sheep and cattle. It is a bit like a small cheetah but black, it has a lean build and it is certainly not a domestic cat."

But was there more than one big cat? On 24th March 2000, a pair of labrador sized cats were seen by a man walking near Great Whittington. This led Ken Watts to say, "There seem to be half a dozen, and it was only a matter of time before they began to mate. Although we are not sure exactly what they are, the descriptions all seem to match and cover quite a large area." Mr Watts went on to

claim that the animals could

stand at 29 inches high at the

shoulder and would weigh about 30lbs.

Milkman Gary Cant saw a large black creature on Duke's road in Hexham in the early hours of Saturday morning. He was with his assistant and both men saw it. "It certainly wasn't a dog, although it was about the right size. It moved very quickly and very athletically."

While most sightings indicated that the cats were black, a sandy coloured animal was spotted at Dipton mill by a 10 year old boy. He ran into house screaming that he had seen a "Tiger without the stripes". This tied in with a similar sighting of a big cat on the A68 road near Minsteracres.

Reports of big black cats began to flood in from around the area and there was little doubt that the majority of them were authentic. In one instance, proof of the big cats took the form of paw prints which were photographed and presented in the local press. The Hexham Courant now offered £50 for the best photo of the beast, although the prize has never been claimed.

On June 2nd Wyn Thompson reported a big cat in Highford lane in the west end of Hexham. "I was amazed to see it walking down the road towards me, carrying a rabbit in its mouth. It was as tall as my black labrador and was no further than 20 yards away. It casually went through a gap in the fence and walked across St Joseph's School football field."

In a separate incident 20 lambs were found slaughtered at Hall farm near minsteracres following reports of a big cat in the area. Savaged carcasses had been found on a number of occasions. The Police are reported to have

said that it was probably the work of a dog, although they did confirm there had been reports of a lynx-like animal in the vicinity.

Rather bizarrely, this was followed by the appearance of a crop circle in a field just outside of Hexham and reports by two women of an unknown creature seen in the river Tyne at Hexham.

After this, there was a lull in activity for a couple of months until a large black cat was sighted crossing the busy dual carriageway which bypasses the town centre of Hexham. The big black cats were back in town and sightings began to come in, thick and fast. One final report followed on 20th October 2000 that a big black cat had been in Dukeshouse Woods a mile away from Hexham. Then the sightings ceased and the black cats vanished just as rapidly as the wolf had in the previous century.

OVERVIEW

There are interesting similarities and discrepancies in both cases. As well as the same geographical areas involved there are mentions of a school as an emotional counterpoint in each scare, especially in the Wolf prowlings where the word predator is used regularly and menacingly in the reports.

Descriptions are inconsistent, even the colour of the animals varying to a large extent, so much so that it is hard to imagine it being down to human error in recall. As usual as publicity of such sightings increases so do the sightings, maybe because people are more likely to remember seeing something strange if there is an available framework to place it into and more



willingness to report it if others have done so already. Alternatively if an anticipation of such phenomena has been invoked people are liable to label anything they see as being a part of it.

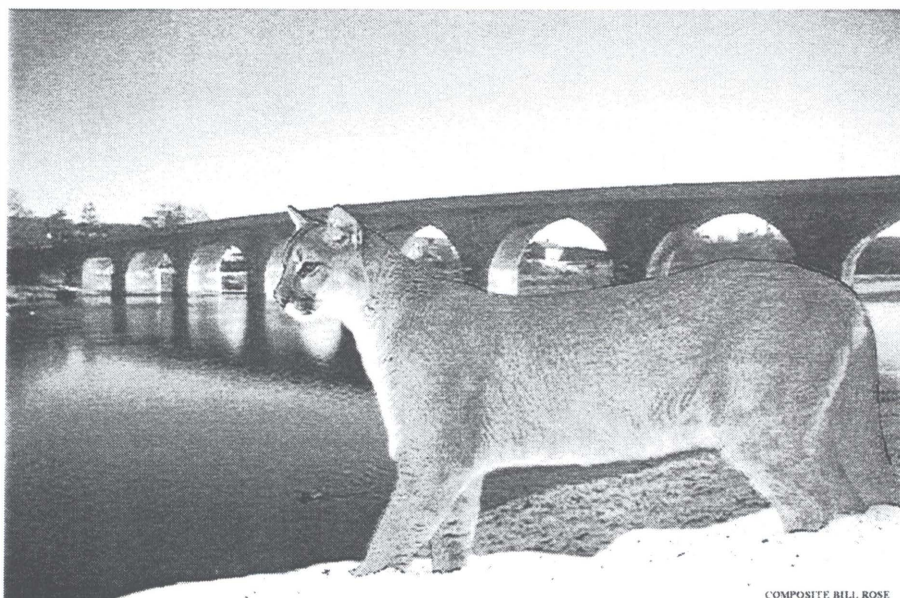
The differences in the descriptions, instead of being taken as weaknesses, are used to embellish and elaborate the scares by hinting there is more than one animal at large. In both widely separated events, there is a belief that whole families of the predators are prowling the woods, with no real evidence at hand to back it up. There is never more than one animal spotted at once, or different coloured ones at the same incident.

In fact the so-called expert opinion used in the wolf reports are dubious at best. The wolf is too easily taken as being that very thing although any one who'd care to look at an encyclopaedia would see that the wounds supposedly carried out by this wolf aren't typical of that animal - a wolf would never bring a prey down by biting its hindquarters, being too careful of the damage a kick can do (Mech, L. D., *The Way of the Wolf* (1991); Teton Science School Staff, *Looking at the Wolf* (1987)).

Both series of events peter out with vague reports as the press grabs onto any account, trying to keep the interest of the people alive, although as in most fads fascination ebbs just as soon as it peaks. What is interesting in the Wolf case is the reluctance to accept that the corpse found on the railway line was the culprit. Afterwards there is a short lived burst of sightings, like a denial, although the lack of slaughtered sheep seems to underline the Wolf's epitaph.

The atmosphere of the unusual evoked by the Big Cat sightings seems to spawn the reporting of more Fortean events, like the crop circle and the bizarre water monster reports. Perhaps the people of Hexham were more open to these experiences after following the mysterious cat reports that appeared in the press, week after week.

One difference between both series of past and present events is their mood. Fear and hatred is evident in the fevered hunts for the Wolf, but only amazement and curiosity is present in the sightings of the big cat. Could this be a sign of our times? Cut off from nature and its dangers we consider a



COMPOSITE BILL ROSE

creature such as this as nothing but a spectacle when in the simpler past the people were pragmatically trying to track it down and eliminate it?

That aside the Wolf did become something of a novelty, with the production of postcards and high offers for the stuffed corpse. Jokes and tales were a plenty, one said that a farmer was on his doorstep when he saw the wolf coming towards him and he ran inside and threw the cat out. It was also mentioned that costumes were often worn by those hunting the animal, bringing a sense of occasion to these otherwise brutal displays of eradication.

But maybe the evolution of attitudes to the creatures over that century is an important part of this phenomenon. The Wolf was already a memory in the urban mind when the woods were supposedly being stalked at the start of the twentieth century after the industrial revolution had dragged everything further away from the worked earth and organic rural life that was the England of old. Nowadays the mysterious creature is more likely to be spotted by the motorist driving to work or the man walking his dog.

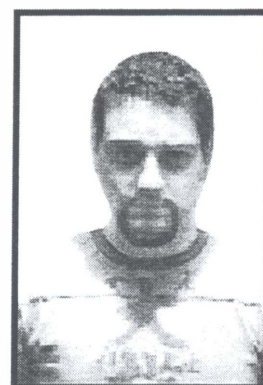
For some people, these were animal apparitions unleashed from ancient Celtic artefacts harking back to an unwritten period of Hexhamshire's past. Perhaps flashbacks in the evolving collective unconscious or just an obvious fascination for a community nurtured and surrounded in the woodlands of prehistory. Whichever explanation you prefer, environment does play a part.

Woods have been the metaphor for

the dark and unexplored depths of our own wild pasts in Cinema, Drama and Literature since we crawled out of them. It is no coincidence that the poor Wolf has been the unfortunate recipient of the worst attributes of the human character.

As the English countryside entered the twentieth century the Wolf must have seemed to embody everything the progressive and self-improving Victorians deemed contrary and distasteful. It could be that the totally foreign Big Cat expressed the alienation of the new millennium man to his neglected organic heritage.

One thing will always remain unchanged throughout time - as long as there are woods, in our countryside and in our minds, you'd better be afraid of what's stalking inside.



Stuart Ferrol is a freelance journalist and a Retail Brand Manager based in Northumberland. He has the strange ability to set off metal detectors and wakes up at odd times in the night for no reason, but has no recollection of small grey beings with big eyes.

UFOs-THE REALITY BEHIND THE MYTHS

Our passionate preoccupation with the sky, the stars, and a God somewhere in outer space is a homing impulse. We are drawn back to where we came from.

*(Eric Hoffer (1902-83),
U.S. philosopher. New York Times
(21 July 1969) , on the first Moon
landing)*

Trends and beliefs are ever changing particularly in a subject as emotive and elusive as the whole field of UFO study and related phenomena. One of the reasons that the idea of UFOs exists at all is the responsibility of the UFO researchers themselves and how they approach and investigate reports and claims of UFO sightings and encounters. Certainly reports from pilots and astronauts have led the way in focusing on the idea that nuts and bolts extra-terrestrial craft actually exist and are visiting us from 'out there.'

The modern era of UFOs really began in earnest with Kenneth Arnold's sighting in June of 1947 and many subsequent possible explanations and theories resulted to define what he had actually observed. But his sighting remained as a classic report of UFOs and the media's unfortunate use of the term 'flying saucer' took on a life of its own and aligned itself with UFO, which of course in real terms mean unidentified flying objects, and which within the correct resources and information can usually be identified.

It is also crucial that we explore the way in which perceptions and beliefs influence how people observe things and to understand the inaccuracy of most observations of lights and objects that people perceive to be UFOs, when within the correct resources and time parameters explanations would be available, illustrating the conflicting idea of UFOs versus IFOs.

(Identified Flying Objects)

22 Therefore a very high percentage



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GLORIA HEATHER DIXON

of cases could be explained if reported within twenty-four hours and with good objective reporting by the witnesses.

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA

Another very significant issue that arises is the media's role in the area of UFO research and it has to be remem-

bered that they are selling entertainment to the public in order to increase and validate their viewing figures and it is rare for a documentary or radio programme to do much more than this.

A good percentage of TV documentaries manage to misinform the public completely about the real possibilities

of this field of research and so the beat goes on with the general public soaking up the idea of alien abduction and fleets of spaceships in our skies without an ounce of definitive proof to back this up.

The real and significant issues are edited out or never addressed in the first place. It is a tragedy in some ways that this is the case as BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) and many other UFO organisations across the UK (and beyond) contribute in a major way to these programmes in order to provide information about the diverse areas of UFO research. This should, in normal circumstances, enable the media to be informed enough to present a reasonable documentary or debate on aspects of the UFO field of study.

But many programmes still focus on areas that entertain only and continue to omit the significant issues concerning the UFO subject in general. Fortunately there have been a residual of programmes that have adopted a more responsible approach to the whole UFO idea and its related counterparts. This has informed the public in a responsible way and therefore has imparted more diverse ideas of the real issues surrounding UFOlore.

A LOOK AT THE NINETIES AND HOW THE SUBJECT EVOLVED TO PRESENT DAY TRENDS, BELIEFS AND INTERPRETATION

Much of the nineties generated enormous interest in the whole subject and therefore UFO sighting reports were very high during that time due in part to the very successful series *The X Files* and several other science fiction television series and movies. In addition to that came the controversial and alleged Roswell alien footage promoted by Ray Santilli. So interest reached an all time high during that period, with an ever increasing number of UFO conferences, books, magazines and media coverage reinforcing much of the imagery associated with UFOs.

This also led to a tremendous increase in UFO sighting reports to many organisations and agencies such as the police, airports, Jodrell Bank and the MoD, so the public's perception of UFOs began to take on substance creating a legacy of hopes and fears about nuts and bolts spaceships visiting us from far distant planets to the idea that aliens were abducting us behind closed doors, or on lonely roads. This evolved quite radically

and books, articles and documentaries on the subject of abduction by aliens, continued to escalate although many were without substance or comprehensive research and certainly devoid of any relevant scientific balance.

One of the outstanding events in the early nineties was the MIT Abduction Study Conference in America, where both scientists and witnesses gathered together to collate and focus on the comprehensive and incredible raw data available relating to abduction research that had been drawn together for this event.

This instigated an academic encyclopedic book documenting the wide-ranging discussions and conclusions of this conference. And so the idea of alien abduction progressed through the nineties with stark alien imagery used everywhere including television advertising.

Everyone became familiar with the visual sense of an archetypal alien and the scenario that related to it. More and more speculation developed around the subject of abduction and the idea that people were being abducted in real time by aliens and subjected to all manner of abuse for

reasons of creating a hybrid race and other fanciful notions. These experiences were often investigated with the aid of regression hypnosis used as a tool to elicit the 'truth' about what the witness had experienced.

The fact that hypnosis used in this way is riddled with inaccuracy and fantasy seemed immaterial to some researchers. Regression hypnosis is extremely problematic to use as a method for eliciting an accurate 'truth' about a UFO experience and cannot be regarded as giving any objective validity to the event or experience. It can be an extremely powerful tool and, in some instances, danger-

recall it.

And so the myths and rumors surrounding the nature of claims of alien abduction developed at a rapid pace supported by a host of media and press documentaries and articles.

Meanwhile across the Atlantic in America abduction researchers including academics were endorsing the idea of alien abduction in quite radical ways and there is no doubt that there were major differences between UK abduction researchers and American researchers particularly with regard to the idea pursued by researchers in the States that these experiences were occurring as a physical reality. These

annual statistics continued to drop and there has been a downward spiral since then and to date.

There are still problems in gaining any kind of accurate national statistics, due in part to local UFO groups that come and go and where reports tend to be inaccessible to anyone else.

However, it is also evident from various sources that publishers and the press have a very low-grade interest in the UFO subject at the moment. This does not mean for one moment that it will stay that way.

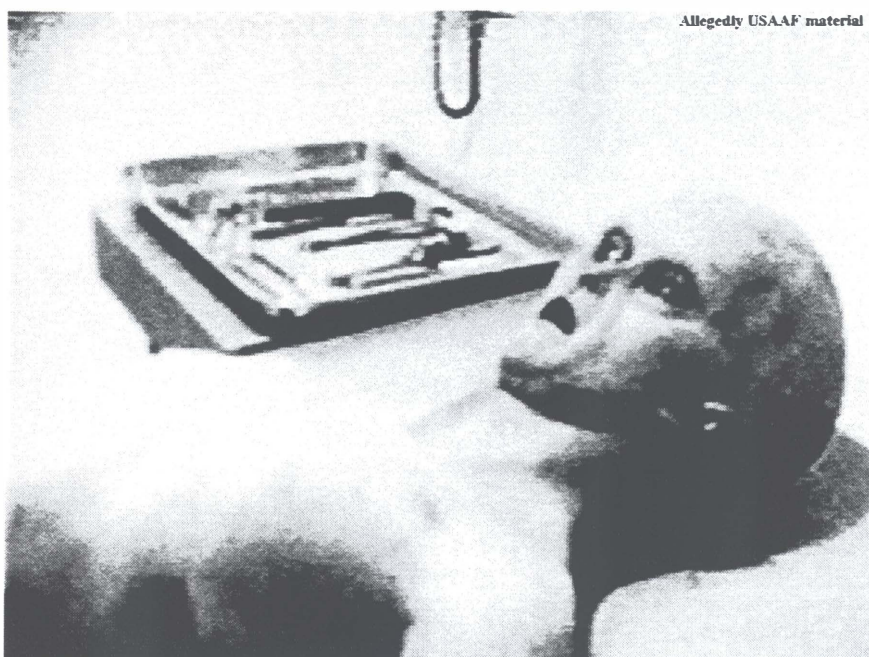
There have always been ebbs and flows in ufology and a spate of sighting reports will usually generate more interest, particularly if this is covered by the local press, leaving the door open for many people to come forward with their sightings, and increasing the idea that there are areas, which claim to be inundated with UFOs. Of course this is rarely the case, as people will report all manner of things, which actually have nothing to do with the primary sighting.

Therefore very inaccurate statistics are obtained for certain areas and Bonnybridge in Scotland is an example of this.

Researcher Malcolm Robinson, who investigated many sightings in the area has commented about the exaggerated UFO statistics for Bonnybridge, although there was certainly a higher level than normal for the region.

Debunkers of the idea of a UFO phenomenon were very happy to embrace this trend, as were skeptics to a point and the believers in the idea of UFOs as being alien spacecraft would continue to point out that the real story was very different with cover-ups and government conspiracies concealing the fact that there were indeed aliens and spaceships visiting this planet under cover with major life changing schemes in store for us. And so the beat went on.

Whatever the theories, debates and disputes relating to alien abductions issues there is no doubt that there are mysteries that we are still failing to explain. An ever-increasing number of people are reporting experiences that lie outside that which science can explain and this trend is escalating as



An image from the infamous "Alien Autopsy" film. Allegedly shot by a USAAF cameraman, it appears to show an extraterrestrial recovered from the Roswell Crash. Many serious researchers have dismissed this film as a clever hoax.

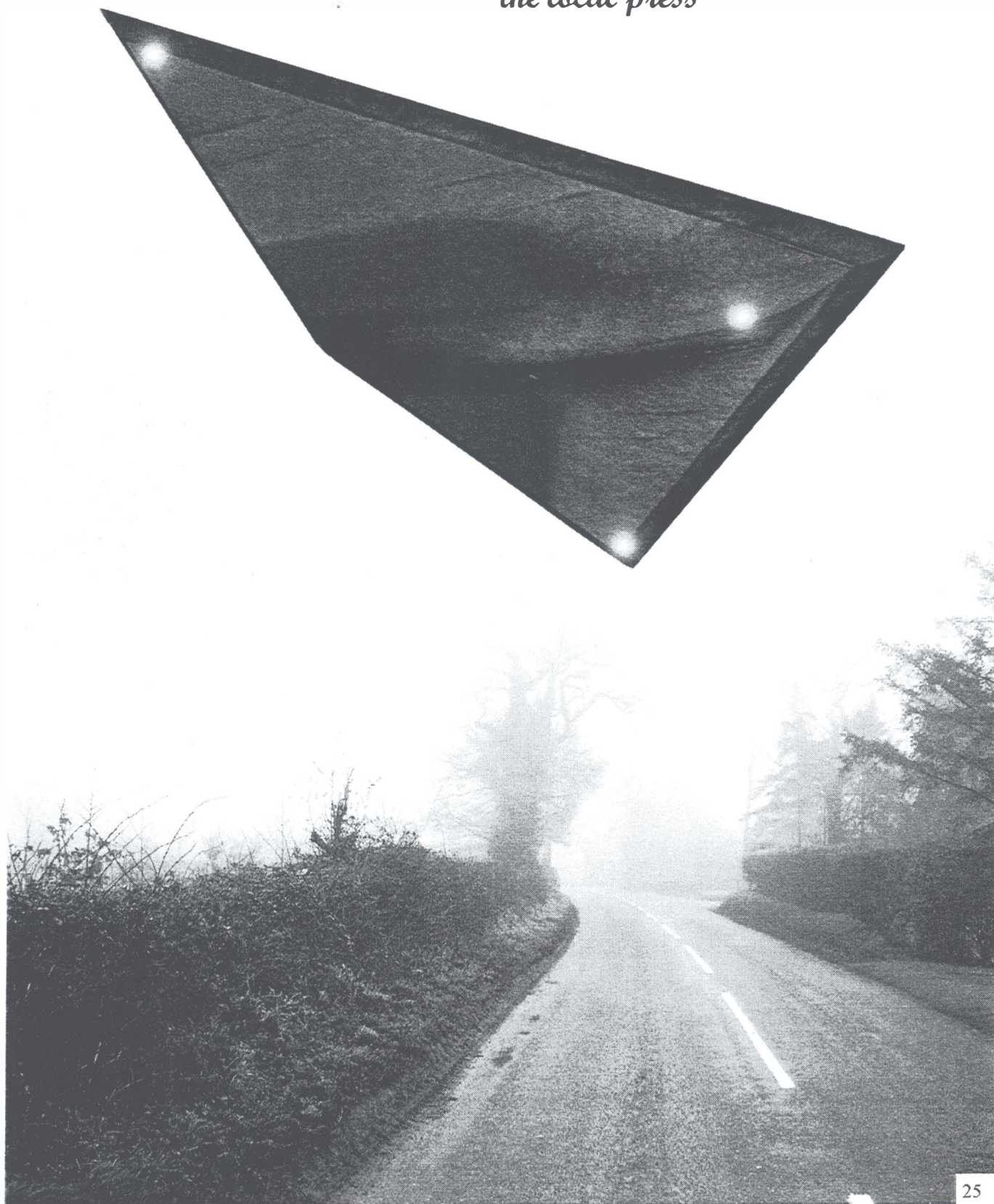
ous. During the trance state witnesses can be in an extremely suggestive state and therefore fantasy can create a large part of their 'memories' of the experience in addition to the powerful UFO imagery available to them on a subconscious level.

Memory itself is highly inaccurate even though we feel that things are just as we remember them, this is not the case at all and the brain is very selective about what we choose to remember and even then every time we draw on that memory we can edit and change it and the emotions that maybe involved in a memory, can also change the 'way' in which we

ideas and theories were disputed quite dramatically by some researchers within the UK and many vociferous debates flowed back and forth electronically across the Atlantic.

By the time the very late nineties occurred, many UFO magazines had gone out of business as the interest in the idea of visiting spaceships diminished somewhat and ennui set in with regard to the media sources, who had been responsible for promoting all the alien abduction stories. Evidence of this decrease became more and more apparent with regard to sighting reports to BUFORA and from 1998

There have always been ebbs and flows in ufology and a spate of sighting reports will usually generate more interest, particularly if this is covered by the local press



we settle into the 21st century.

Of course relevant scientific disciplines can be counted on to explain some of these experiences, but few get involved with the real issues, which surround ordinary people reporting extraordinary experiences. They are also incredibly unaware of the amount of raw data that organizations like BUFORA and many others receive.

This curtails any opportunity to really study what maybe occurring and many show a dismissive attitude to the idea that there is indeed a mountain of data out there, which needs to be investigated. This is important data indeed for the 21st century, if only for the need to understand the enormous potential of the

human consciousness.

Research and investigation within BUFORA and many other UFO organizations extends far beyond their original remit and has done for a very long time. This sometimes has gone unrecognized, as we have focused and studied only one area when we needed to look in a comprehensive way at the whole picture of the witness and their life history including their environment, beliefs and desires, which would present a better understanding of these compelling experiences and what they may mean in terms of the human condition.

To sum up on the above, it is apparent that there are a residual of high

strangeness cases which defy any rational explanation at all after thorough investigation.

This may not necessarily mean that in time or within the correct resources they cannot be explained, but it maybe that in some cases we are looking at unknown natural phenomena, which causes some type of brain dysfunction to produce some strange and inexplicable effects, drawing us into a journey of mind boggling experiences, which are completely subjective ones and which have no known framework or imagery for the experienter to understand what they mean in an objective sense.

It is also a possibility that during these experiences there are direct links to otherworld realities, which exist beyond the parameters of the physical world, as we understand it. Because of this, the witness sets out on a mission of self-discovery to try and understand what these experiences are.

BUFORA and other UFO/paranormal organizations are just some of the agencies they may use on their way and it has become crucial now that we are able to draw on reports of these experiences and try to define some aspects of what may be occurring within this strange and complex field of research.

Meanwhile in 2002, reports appear to be still falling, but it is doubtful that this is a true reflection of international or even national reports. The internet has certainly changed the way people make these reports with many reporting their sightings on UFO and paranormal web-sites or in chat-rooms etc.

So it is unlikely that we have anywhere close to a true picture of the reality of what is really going on in the UFO and paranormal world of inexplicable events and this is certainly a major problem in allowing researchers to focus with any definition on the true anomalies in order to explore and examine the nature of extraordinary human experiences and whether there are a residual that do indeed lie outside the boundaries of science can explain both now and in the future.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

In order to proceed in any direction at all in this bewildering subject, we need to understand some of the

BILL ROSE



present day beliefs and interpretations of extraordinary experiences. What is certainly important is how interpretation of strange events are being understood and drawn together by the witness.

Therefore the folklore of yesterday has transcended into the 'grey alien' imagery of today. It has been fascinating to see how witness perception has changed during the eighties and nineties in terms of how they interpret a curious event or experience to mirror imagery they have downloaded into their unconscious mind, which depicts the idea of visiting aliens and flying saucers. A percentage of reports

appear to have no actual observation of a UFO, but may encompass seeing a strange figure or lights in their bedroom at night, or a car journey where they feel they have experienced 'missing time' and odd lights and events with fragmented memories of what has occurred.

Because of the powerful representations of aliens and extraterrestrial craft etc. that are carried within the media, press, books, magazines and advertising, some visions of ghostly figures and various other paranormal occurrences are now being perceived as some kind of alien presence, contact or visitation and so interpretation of these events has changed to fit into modern day beliefs. It is often not understood very well that the UFO subject encompasses a huge and complex picture and it is essential that researchers realize just how wide the parameters are when investigating claims of UFO encounters.

It is a question of belief or defining unknown experiences within the context of modern day trends and representations of these trends and therefore how these events are perceived triggers the agency to which people will make their reports.

To focus within restrictive parameters will not increase our knowledge of the nature of this subject and more importantly the nature of people who report them.

In the Space Age in which we live and as our technology has advanced in a dramatic way over the last 20 years people are looking to the skies for answers in the form of visitors from outer space. They are asking more questions and seeking the answers on a scale unknown before and as people



move from orthodox religion to New Age type cults, they are becoming more spiritually aware and need to explore that spirituality.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL HYPOTHESIS (ETH)

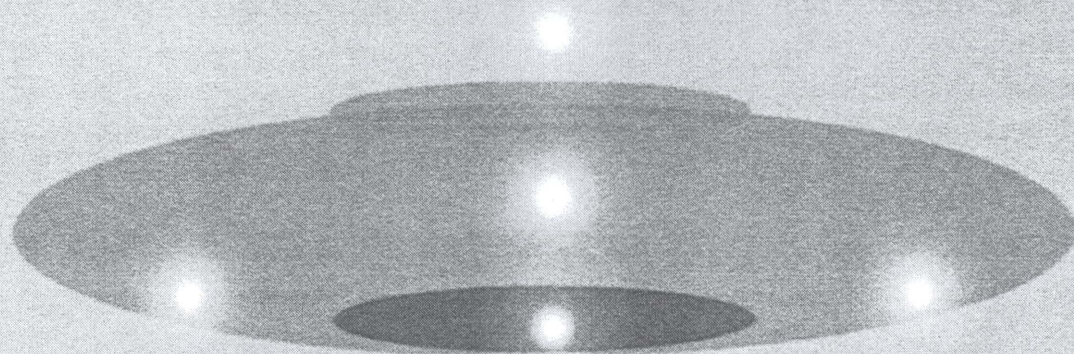
So what could be the possibilities in extending our thinking beyond the idea of nuts and bolts spaceships visiting our planet? There are of course many real alternatives and explanations beginning with unidentified atmospheric phenomena (UAP), such as ball lightning, a controversial, but very real possibility in a small percentage of cases and which have certainly been recorded by some UFO organisations as being a real possibil-

ity to explain an event. These translucent balls have been known to find their way through solid matter creating problems and physiological effects for those in their path.

In fact in one report from the 1950s, the teenager felt the sense of a presence before he observed the ball of light moving slowly up his staircase. We then have the well documented area of earthlights sometimes reported prior to seismic activity and a prime example of these lights have occurred in the Hessdalen Valley in Norway (See article in Strange Times issue 3).

Researcher, Paul Devereux has conducted long term research into this area and written several books on the subject. The Longendale Valley in the Peak District has certainly many recordings of these lights.

*Is there any evidence that we are being
visited by aliens from 'out there'?*





Powerful electromagnetic fields (EM) are most certainly responsible in some cases for some claims of inexplicable events.

These EM fields are so strong in some areas that they interact with the brain causing hallucinatory effects creating perceptions of 'missing time' and many visual images that are internally generated when the brain is 'scrambled' and unable to code and present the correct visual images of the events that are occurring.

Researcher Albert Budden has conducted long-term research at the cutting edge of this particular area and I highly recommend his books, which will give the reader a real insight into the ramifications of electromagnetic fields and their possible effects.

Some high strangeness UFO cases very possibly lie within the paranormal field of study and have been misunderstood or misinterpreted by the witness to be associated with UFO/alien encounters.

Sleep disorders such as hypnagogia, the altered state of consciousness between waking and sleeping can cause incorrect interpretation of an event, as this 'altered state' can allow visions or the sense of a presence, which appear very real indeed to the person who is having them.

Another disorder is 'sleep paralysis', which occurs during sleep in order to prevent the person acting out their dreams and having a nasty accident.

Unfortunately this condition can

sometimes transcend into 'waking time' in some reasonably rare cases and this can cause severe panic for the person.

Then there are what are known as 'awakening dreams' where people are convinced that their 'dream' has actually been a reality of an event and it is difficult for them to accept that this has been a dream. This is quite a common occurrence. The above alternatives to the ETH hypothesis give an idea of the extent of how wide-ranging the other alternatives could be.

IN CONCLUSION – THE QUESTIONS THAT REMAIN

Is there any evidence that we are being visited by aliens from 'out there'?

Well there is certainly no definitive proof in the form of artifacts or crashed saucers or any captured extra-terrestrial entities, beyond rumor and speculation.

There is however mounting evidence from people across the world, who claim they have had a UFO encounter or experienced something not of this world. And which they perceive maybe visitors from outer space.

What do we make of these claims particularly those being reported by pilots, astronauts and sane, rational people? Could there be any truth in the idea of nuts and bolts spaceships and alien visitation? What proof in any form is there?

Could some of these claims be the result of the alternatives to the ETH

mentioned above and interpreted incorrectly? There are many questions without answers and that is if we are even asking the right questions.

To reiterate on the beginning of this article, without the researchers and people who report these sightings and experiences, there would be no UFO subject for articles, books or media coverage.

The subject has extended way beyond what were understood to be the original parameters of the UFO field of study and as it has extended far beyond the threshold of this framework, so the resulting complexities have created a minefield of speculative thinking on what the reality of UFOs may be.

There are many mysteries for mankind to explore and possibly define in the future whether these are created by alien visitation from outer space or something else from 'inner space' and the enormous unexplored potential of the human consciousness. We need mysteries to lie on the periphery of our lives in order give meaning to our existence and the nature of reality. And as we embrace our limited understanding of who we are and why we are, we reach out to a vast universe to develop and widen that understanding and hope that we are not alone. In the end that is all we can do.



Gloria Heather Dixon is the editor of *Strange Times* magazine and Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA).

She has had a lifetime interest in extraordinary human experiences, specifically focusing her research into claims of near-death experiences and after death contact.

NICKY-TAMS

BRIAN ALLAN



When SPI UK first took this case, we had no idea that there would be follow up connected to the same location, a pub called 'Nicky Tams,' more than a year later. This proved rather more alarming than the original case. Incidentally, the term 'Nicky Tams' is an old Scots expression used to describe a type of trouser tied with twine below the knee and traditionally

worn by farm workers.

Following a report in the national press regarding 'Nicky Tams,' an allegedly haunted, independent pub situated in Baker Street close to Stirling's historic castle, I contacted the owners offering SPI's services. The licensees, Andrea Lindsay and her husband Chris, were interested in discovering the identity of spirits allegedly haunting the premises and I was

invited, along with my colleague Bill Devlin for a chat.

First Visit

DATE: March 28th 1999

TIME: 09.30am

LOCATION: 'Nicky Tams', Baker Street, Stirling

PERSONNEL (SPI): Brian Allan & Bill Devlin

MEDIUMS: AnneMarie Sneddon & Jim Lochhead

EQUIPMENT: Camcorder, Cameras, TriField Meter, Tape Recorders.

The pub, which dates from 1704, has recently been renovated and presents a friendly, homely atmosphere reinforced by the warmth of its owners and staff. Over a cup of coffee, Andrea and Chris explained what had transpired.

The couple had only recently bought the premises and seeing a lot of potential they decided to carry out renovations. To this end, they shut up shop for six weeks and steeled themselves for many late nights and a good deal of hard work.

Fortunately, Chris who is a skilled joiner carried out all the woodwork, with friends in various building trades helping out.

Shortly after the work began, they sensed a different ambience about the place, as the grimy layers of accumulated paint, plaster and paper were stripped away they had the distinct impression that the pub itself in some bizarre fashion was pleased with the changes. In many ways this was truly a journey back in time.

Each surface they uncovered represented a face from the past, but it was when the restoration work moved upstairs that the odd happenings began.

When a section of plasterboard sheet-

ing was broken away, an alcove was revealed and there, propped up against the wall, was a large, old-fashioned, framed photograph. The photograph dates from the late 1800's, and appears to be of a clergyman, or at least someone wearing a clerical collar. The man, who is slightly bald, looks as if he is in his early forties, his face frozen in that formal, serious expression favoured by photographic subjects from that era.

Following the discovery of this photograph, a series of unsettling happenings began, almost as if the person in the photograph resented his solitude being disturbed. There were fleeting sightings of a strange dark outline, always glimpsed from the side of the eye. Licensees and customers saw this and Andrea's mother whilst working upstairs had the strange sensation of someone actually 'walking through her.'

On another occasion, late at night, a plumber carrying out work on the upstairs toilets glimpsed a strange, dark, ethereal form over by the kitchen door.

Understandably, the man was quite startled to the point where he insisted on company while he completed his task. At this time, Andrea did not give much credence to tales of the supernatural, but her attitude changed when she had several encounters herself. On one occasion when she was deciding what style of bar to install, she felt her wrist being gripped gently, as if some long dead occupant was tacit giving approval to the changes.

In another incident, when she and Chris were sitting, relaxing after the customers had gone, small luminous spheres emerging slowly from a bricked up fireplace. She was so surprised by this, she did not think to alert Chris and the time that she did, the small radiant spheres had vanished.

Interestingly, these type of phenomena are fairly common at the scene of alleged hauntings and may indicate either the presence of coherent electromagnetic fields analogous to those producing 'earthlights,' or 'orbs,' which is another hotly debated phenomena sometimes encountered in situations like this.

Some researchers hold that 'orbs' are the souls or spirits of the dead, but there is no clear consensus of opinion

about either their origin or purpose.

The bar staff has also had their share of unexplained happenings: compressed gas supplies to the beer pumps would be found turned off, glasses, for no apparent reason fell off the gantry at the rear of the bar. In another instance, some electrical equipment failed and no fault was found. A customer heard sounds emanating from a cupboard in the gents' toilet, unfortunately, the sounds although identifiable as voices could not be understood.

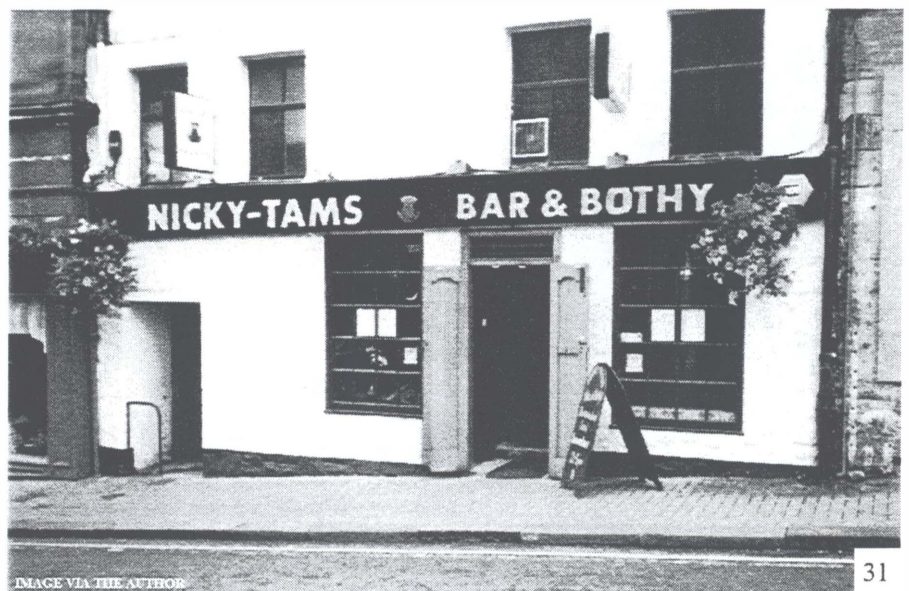
We checked the area around the bar where some of the sightings had been made using the TriField meter. Interestingly, there was a particularly strong reading in excess of 100 mG, (milligauss) behind the bar adjacent to a group of beer taps. They were non-illuminated and there was no pumps or other obvious source of artificial electromagnetic EM radiation. This was the precise location where the one of the shadowy figures had been seen, and in the immediate vicinity of the moving glasses. We took other readings in the pub, which proved to be typical of domestic premises at around 1.2 - 1.5 mG. The high level 'hotspot' may be significant since it is an element frequently found in the manifestation of apparitions. Bill and I felt that there probably was something odd happening here and agreed to carry out an investigation. We contacted talented psychics AnneMarie Sneddon and Jim Lochhead who have ably assisted us with cases in the past and they agreed to come along and assist.

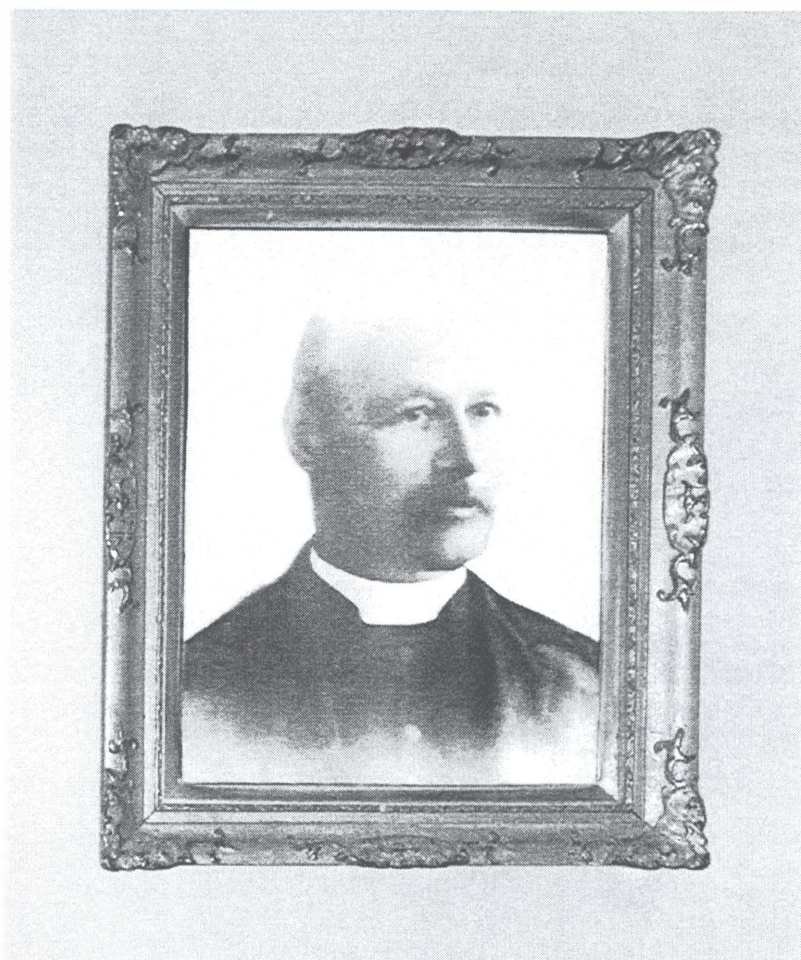
THE INVESTIGATION

We met outside the premises at 9.30 am on Sunday 28th of March 1999, Andrea and Chris had opened up especially early for us, and were already at work tidying and cleaning ready for Sunday's trade. We entered and introduced AnneMarie and Jim, who in their quiet style were quickly at work seeking anomalous 'energies' within the building.

This was to reveal some rather unexpected results. While the psychics were getting a feel for the place, Chris gave us a brief history of the building. It had been erected in 1703 as a bank and continued in this form for more than 25 years. When the building changed hands, it became a public house called 'The Caledonian Vaults' and it continued in this role until the present day when Andrea and Chris became the new owners. During the renovations when the floor was being re-laid, the original bank vaults were uncovered, these had, for whatever reason, been filled with earth and rubble and Chris had neither the time nor money to have them excavated. I believe that when time and money allow, it is Chris's intention to excavate the vaults and utilise the extra space. Further enquiries revealed that the vaults might have been filled for reasons of cost as the rateable value is based on the number of rooms.

While AnneMarie consulted her dowsing pendulum, Jim moved over to a dark, snug, welcoming corner adjacent to the cellar door. In Jim's opinion, there were two presences seated at the table here, he sensed that





minute or two, she announced in a quiet voice that a murder had taken place, here, where we stood in the public bar.

AnneMarie felt that the atmosphere was varying from light to heavy and that the energy field of the presence was moving around. There was a great deal of hostility, anger and resentment directed at us because the spirit had a clear purpose, an unfulfilled task and did not wish to be banished. This was not a concern because at the start, both Andrea and Chris made it clear that this was not part of their agenda, they only wanted to know who, or what, was there.

AnneMarie told us that this murder had occurred in the 1920's, witnessed by an old, bearded man seated sitting in a corner beside the front door. She sensed that this spirit had been seen by several people in the bar, not only the staff, but customers as well.

Again, this was born out by Andrea, was told us that a shadowy, black outline had been glimpsed in that area by a number of people, always from the corner of the eye, never full on. Another strong impression sensed by the clairvoyants was that the bar had been a place where people formerly met, but not for drinking, again this proved astonishingly accurate.

The stairway leading to the upper level of the building proved to have its share of mystery too and once again the phenomena of anomalous faces was to recur. The varnished pattern on the wall revealed a host of faces; some of them appeared to be representations of the spirits inhabiting the pub. The more we looked the more appeared, seeming to literally stand out from the wall in a disconcerting manner.

Before moving to the upper level, our clairvoyants felt that they would like to look in the cellar at the rear of the building. This was cut into the bedrock of the hill itself, its arched roof being constructed of small rough stones mortared into place.

In here, the presence of a small child was detected, a boy hunched down in a corner. He did not appear to be particularly frightened; he was just keeping out of sight, perhaps wary of our presence. AnneMarie was able to make a link here, in her opinion the child hiding in the cellar and the embittered, hostile presence in the bar were one and the same.

they knew each other and were content to sit there watching what was happening round about them. Jim placed them as originating from the 1870's. They were both ordinary working men dressed in the clothes they wore at their employment, which, by today's standards were rather unkempt and scruffy. There was a very positive feeling in the corner; Jim's impression was that this area is 'lucky'. How do you quantify 'lucky'?

There is nothing you can measure, nothing that can be proved, in this instance, we must take the word of an experienced clairvoyant. As it later turned out, this feeling proved to be remarkably accurate. AnneMarie who had detected a third presence standing close to the cellar door joined us. This one was slightly different from the other two, slightly aloof and from a more recent era, she felt that this one moved around and was most likely to be responsible for the mischievous occurrences that had taken place. Both of the clairvoyants felt that this entity had caused problems with the gas to the beer pumps.

32 Andrea was able to verify that

the gas would inexplicably be found turned off.

AnneMarie asked Bill if he would like to touch the energy field emanating from one of the entities seated at the table, he did. Andrea, who had been watching the proceedings, was asked if she would like to participate. She approached the table rather timidly and extended her hand to the area being indicated by AnneMarie. She stood for a few moments, her hand just below AnneMarie's; she shook her head and said that she could feel nothing. After a few more moments, she called out in surprise and jerked her hand back, her face a mixture of surprise and delight. She looked at her hand then at us, "My hand just went to sleep," she exclaimed, but did not seem eager to repeat the experience.

Hearing the noise, Chris who had been tidying up came over to the group and Jim asked him if he would like to touch the entity standing by the cellar door. While he was doing this we went back to the main floor in front of the bar where AnneMarie again consulted her pendulum. After a

She went on to explain that in the spirit world, although time has no relevance, the ageing process can and does take place. She felt that this child had been the murder victim and his spirit was still here, grown to adulthood and seeking revenge.

While I do not necessarily accept all explanations given regarding psychic perceptions, this was only one of many impressions sensed that day which later, proved to be disturbingly accurate. At the mediums' suggestion, we turned our attention to the bar once again and the old framed photograph that appeared to be the catalyst in these uncanny events.

Our two clairvoyants stared intently at the picture. After a minute or two AnneMarie expressed the opinion that although this man appeared to be a clergyman, there was another side to him, a darker side.

She sensed that this man although an authority figure, had not been particularly liked by his contemporaries. There was a strange heaviness surrounding the picture that suggested that this man might have been connected with witchcraft. This impression did not necessarily mean he had been involved in the actual ceremonies, but it was likely that he had attempted to prevent them. If this was the case, it is possible that his likeness had been sealed away by whoever was involved with the coven in an attempt to gain power and control over his spirit.

AnneMarie could discern faces in the photographic emulsion around the edges of the picture where dampness had caused some degradation in the chemicals. She told us that the faces, which we could all see, had the rather distorted, malignant appearance of 'lower astral entities'. This, as far as AnneMarie was concerned was all the evidence that she needed, however Bill and I preferred something more concrete. Andrea told us that she had attempted to discover the identity of the man in the picture from the previous owners of the premises but to no avail. Bill and I will if possible attempt to identify the mysterious figure in the photograph. The only lettering on the photograph is the name Campbell, (which, curiously, is Andrea's name) but this appears to be the identity of the photographer and not the

sitter. The real mystery here is why, (speculation about witchcraft aside) anyone would permanently seal up the picture in an alcove. What was there to hide? Is there something else that someone would rather be removed from sight and memory?

We were now ready to evaluate the upper story, so we climbed the stairs and spread out. AnneMarie moved ahead of the rest of us when suddenly she stopped and laughed aloud. "I just bumped into someone," she exclaimed, we looked but could see nothing. This was the precise spot where Andrea's mother had experienced the disquieting sensation of having someone walk through her. AnneMarie did not seem to be par-

ticularly put out by her encounter, quite the reverse, she seemed to find it quite amusing, I'm not sure that I would have the same 'sang-froid'.

Jim, who had been slowly walking around the floor, felt that an area about half way along the wall was significant. AnneMarie agreed with his impressions, in her opinion this area was where occult rituals had been carried out. As it later turned out this was another remarkably accurate impression. Both of the clairvoyants were keen to point out that not everyone involved in witchcraft was necessarily evil, although the motives tend to be similar. Evidently the reason for most ordinary people becoming involved in these ancient, arcane rituals concern

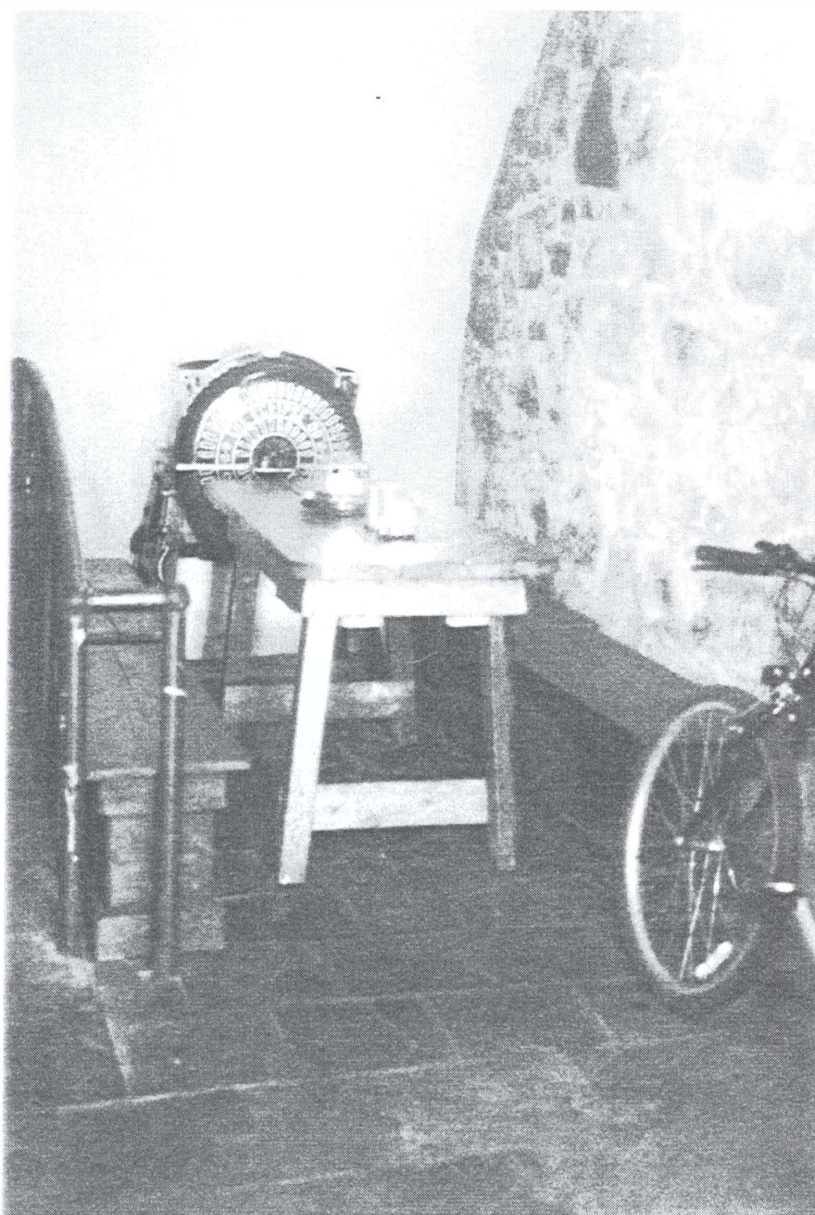


IMAGE VIA THE AUTHOR

The "Lucky" corner

power, sex and money or sometimes all three.

After some further discussion with Andrea and Chris we decided that most of the possibilities had been exhausted for the time being, so, resolving to verify our findings, we parted company.

The following morning, I contacted the local police headquarters at Randolphfield in Stirling, but to no avail. Then I tried a local newspaper, "the Stirling Observer", but they could not help either. In view of this I called in to talk to the ever-knowledgeable antiquarian bookseller Bob McCutcheon and struck gold. Bob who's shop is only a minutes walk from 'Nicky Tams' had a few ideas, but wanted to check his facts and asked me to call back the following day.

I did this and thankfully he had unearthed some apparently relevant information; in the mid 1700's, after the building ceased being used as a bank, the owner of the building had been a man called Bryce. He had over a considerable period of time (probably years), operated a Masonic lodge on the upper floor of the premises.

Here was one explanation for the impressions that the clairvoyants sensed concerning rituals being carried out and people gathering there, but not for drinking. Another reason could of course be that the original purpose of the building was as a bank. As far as the murder was concerned, Bob told me that there had been a murder in the immediate vicinity in the 1920's, but not actually on the premises, it had been in a building directly opposite.

This grisly story relates to a child of four who had been killed on March 12th 1925, the unsavoury deed had the additional dimension of paedophilia attached to it.

Another murder in this area was perpetrated in 1907 but there are no specifics concerning the event other than in was in the area of the pub. According to Bob, the original bank vaults had not been filled in until comparatively recently, he remembers there being access to them as late as the 1970's. There is no obvious reason for them being filled although as

previously suggested perhaps it

34 was to reduce the rates bill on the

IMAGE VIA THE AUTHOR



building, or even for structural reasons. On the other hand it is possible that there was something down there that was best hidden, perhaps connected with the picture that had been sealed in an alcove. Although by no means conclusive, these facts do help corroborate what the clairvoyants sensed.

We must bear in mind that impressions perceived by clairvoyants are not necessarily clear images, but can be pictures, words, feelings and impressions and as such they are open to interpretation where slight variations can creep in.

After some initial checks, we failed to identify the enigmatic man in the photograph, but we will continue our enquiries. Of the impressions sensed by the mediums, two are particularly interesting, the proximity of the murdered child and the use of the upper floor of the building for Masonic rituals. Lastly, remember the 'lucky corner'? Andrea told us that a customer filled in his lottery card sitting there and got five numbers up. They had joked with him about buying everyone a drink from the proceeds: he hasn't been seen since, ah well, it was ever thus.

Second Visit

DATE: Sun 7th May 2000

TIME: 1400 hrs

LOCATION: 'Nicky Tams' and flat above

PERSONNEL (SPI): Brian Allan & Bill Devlin

EQUIPMENT: Sony Audio Recorder and TriField Meter.

Fourteen months after the original case, SPI was once again contacted by the Lindsay's regarding 'uninvited guests' on the premises, this time in

their own living quarters above the pub. The publicans were naturally upset that their own living space was apparently attracting the attentions of an unwelcome entity.

The problems began manifesting when the couple moved into the flat upstairs, after some much-needed renovations were completed. In the early hours one morning a few weeks later at around 4am, Chris was abruptly woken from his sleep with the sensation of hands round his throat choking him.

As he sat up in bed, Andrea also awoke and was understandably concerned for her husband, but assuming it had been some sort of nightmare they settled down and eventually managed to get back to sleep. The next incident occurred a few nights later, again around 4am. Andrea awakened to hear the sound of scraping and rattling from the kitchen waste bin, thinking that it was their dog, Patsy, she called to the dog, only to discover that she was fast asleep in her basket at the foot of the bed. Andrea woke her husband and asked him to check the flat, which he did, but found no evidence of what had caused the noise.

The next happening was a little more alarming. Again Andrea awoke around 4 am to hear the sound of footsteps climbing the uncarpeted stairs leading to the flat.

She clearly heard the front door open then close followed by footsteps in the hall leading to the bedroom. The footsteps stopped at the bedroom door and she had the distinct impression that someone looked into the room. The footsteps then proceeded back down the hall. Thoroughly alarmed she woke Chris and insisted that he check the flat. This he did, but there was nothing out of place. The disturbances have followed a similar pattern ever since. Chris experiences the sensation of being choked and Andrea hears footsteps in the hall. Another odd aspect to the case concerns the kitchen cutlery, which regularly goes missing, but strangely, only the forks!

The Lindsay's claim that there isn't a fork left in the flat, gradually over the period of a few months they have steadily vanished. For some reason the dog's lead also vanished, they searched the flat high and low, but there was no sign of either the forks or

the lead until a few weeks ago. There, in a basket beside the bed, a basket that had been searched repeatedly, the lead suddenly reappeared lying on top of some clothes. It bore no sign of obvious maltreatment or having been chewed by the dog, which tends to rule out the family pet as a culprit.

Bill and I paid them a visit on Sunday the 7th of May and discussed the situation. Based on our observations and discussion with Chris and Andrea, we decided that we should perhaps return with our psychic colleagues with a view to bringing a little peace to the flat.

Third Visit

DATE: Sunday 28th May

TIME: 14.00

LOCATION: 27A Baker Street

PERSONNEL (SPI): Brian Allan

MEDIUMS: AnneMarie Sneddon & Jim Lochhead

INDEPENDENT WITNESSES

(REPORTERS): Maria Croce &

Lucy Dawson

EQUIPMENT: TriField Meter, 35mm Camera, Audio Recorder, Digital Thermometer

I arrived at Nicky Tams just prior to 2pm and was joined shortly after by Lucy Dawson, a reporter with the 'Newsflash' news agency in Edinburgh. A few minutes later Maria Croce, a reporter from a Scottish national newspaper the 'Daily Record' joined us. At this point, AnneMarie Sneddon and Jim Lochhead arrived and chatted briefly with Andrea and the reporters.

AnneMarie took me to one side and told me that she sensed a change in the premises, a change for the worse. There was a negative, dull feeling about the place that had not been there during her previous visit. We decided to commence, Andrea and Chris, who were not quite ready, gave me the door keys for the flat and we left the bar.

Once inside the flat AnneMarie and Jim entered the rooms that comprised the small dwelling, both of them looked strained, the same negative energy from the bar seemed to be permeating the flat. The focus of the energy was in the bathroom near the window, both Jim and AnneMarie could detect the presence of a male entity as the source of the negativity.

IMAGE VIA THE AUTHOR



A murder was witnessed from this corner of the room.

They invited the reporters to 'touch' the energy field; the first to do this was Maria Croce. She went over to the bath beside the two psychics and extended her hand towards the source of the energy. Abruptly, voicing a surprised cry, she jerked back and laughed nervously, she felt as if someone had pricked her fingers with a pin. Lucy tried next and commented on the sensation of coldness and tingling on her fingers, Jim explained the significance of the sensations. AnneMarie sensed that the entity could be extremely aggressive, probably as a result of his upbringing.

They felt that he had been harshly treated as a child and suffered beatings on a regular basis for little or no reason. The aggression manifested itself with Chris when he experienced the sensation of choking. Andrea had

remained unscathed because a man (or men) had inflicted all the abuse on him and she as a woman embodied a source of compassion.

I noticed the TriField meter was registering a low but steady magnetic field, this was the reverse of my previous findings when there was no measurable field at all. When the psychics moved into the living room the meter readings gradually increased to a steady 2.5-mG, this, according to AnneMarie, was an indication that the presence in the bathroom had moved into the living room where we now were.

I don't know whether it was autosuggestion, but I could feel coldness at my feet gradually creeping up my legs. I am not sure what causes this, and it has occurred on other cases so it was not especially unusual. According to the mediums, this coldness is a

sign that a 'spirit' is present. However, this does not explain why it should manifest itself as a cold sensation. It does not register on our temperature measuring devices therefore the sensation appears to be subjective and therefore may be an aspect of 'mind' rather than a physical manifestation.

The psychics were agreed that the entity would be better removed permanently from the apartment. Its continuing negative presence would slowly build in strength and increasingly drawing energy from the occupants until it became a real danger. Since both Chris and Andrea were clearly troubled by the ongoing phenomena, they readily agreed to the recommendation. As in previous circumstances like this, AnneMarie asked for water and salt, both traditional tools used in spiritual cleansing, or use a more emotive term 'exorcism'.

The mechanism of cleansing, as the mediums perceive it, consists of asking their spirit guides to take the distressed (or restless) entity with them, sending it to, as AnneMarie put it, a place of healing.

The water and salt were provided and mediums took them, sprinkling some of each at the entrance to all the rooms effectively sealing all the exits. At their suggestion, we all congregated in the centre of the room and stood quietly in contemplative silence while the psychics summoned their guides. In a matter of seconds it was all over, no noise, no histrionics, just a gradual lessening of tension, a feeling of winding down and peace.

AnneMarie smiled, telling us it entity had gone and there should be no more trouble in the flat, both Chris and Andrea were visibly relieved at this news.

Prior to the reporters leaving the flat, we had a brief discussion and it transpired that while Chris and Andrea were still downstairs in the bar prior to coming up to the flat, they had made an interesting discovery.

They were in conversation about the famous photograph, when a customer overheard them and volunteered information concerning the identity of the mysterious man.

According to the customer a Mr.

Blueitt, the image portrayed one

of his ancestors; his (paternal) great grandfather also named Blueitt. Evidently, he had been involved in a business that traded as a butcher's shop from premises beside the bar during the late 19th century. The alcove in which the photograph was found had originally been a 'vennel' (narrow passageway) giving access to a lane running between Baker Street to Spittal Street that ran parallel behind the premises.

Some of these lanes, which provide easy access between the streets still exist, others however have been sealed off at both ends and are now voids between the old buildings. This at least solved one of the enigmas, the man in the photograph had been identified, although why he had been consigned to a sealed alcove in the first place is not at all clear. Perhaps it was just forgetfulness, or maybe there really were unpleasant memories associated with him, we shall probably never know.

CONCLUSION

That there are 'energies' present within the building is beyond doubt, although whether they are ghosts is another matter. The mediums psychic and sensory capabilities are a different order of magnitude from ours, so it is likely that they discern their surroundings in a different manner.

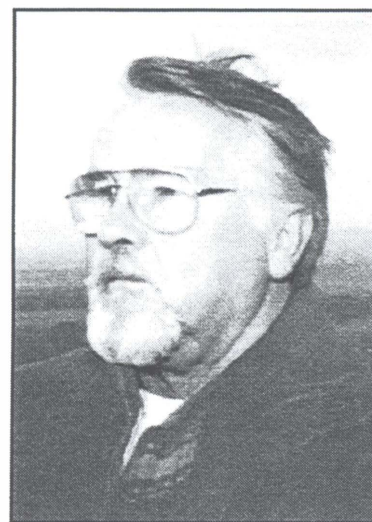
Impressions, of which we are not normally aware, are to the mediums part of a separate yet accessible reality. This was demonstrated in the accurate impressions they received when describing the murder, the rituals conducted on the premises and on the original usage. Although it is doubtful that the discoveries have a great deal of historical significance, nevertheless, little by little as the layers of mystery are stripped away, the forgotten history of the site is revealed.

The elevated levels of EM at sites where the apparitions have been seen also creates its own puzzle. Is it possible that the presences of these fields facilitates the sightings or indeed, are they a by-product of the sightings? Is the unusually high level of EM behind the bar a factor in the spontaneous movement of the glasses? Unfortunately, although there is considerable ongoing research into this subject, as

yet there is no definitive answer for or against.

From my own experience, I have found that in several investigations conducted on allegedly 'haunted' properties, there has been a higher than normal presence of EM fields. Once again this in itself does not represent proof, but nevertheless it is a constant factor.

It would be satisfying to think that through our efforts the spirits, if that is what they are, will, now that they have been recognised, find rest, solace and comfort. On the other hand, is it possible that until the reasons for the photograph being sealed away in darkness have been uncovered, the spirits are condemned to their eternal, lonely vigil in the building? Only time will tell.



Brian Allan was born in Glasgow and resides in Alloa, Scotland. He has had a lifelong fascination with the paranormal field of study and has been an active researcher into many areas of extraordinary incidents for the last thirty years.

Brian runs Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI) in Scotland together with his colleague, Billy Devlin. He has explored and reinvestigated several prominent Scottish paranormal cases including 'The Sauchie Poltergeist Case' from 1962 and the familiar A70 Abduction case of 1992. He has also been involved in several cases where exorcisms have been carried out.

TANGLING WITH STRANGENESS

During the last half-century, a small number of air force pilots have tangled with UFOs and occasionally this has ended in tragedy.

Those who believe there is an extra-terrestrial presence on our planet are inclined to use the term UFO as a description for alien trans-atmospheric vehicles, but in reality, UFO simply means an unidentified aerial object.

Most UFOs are clearly man-made or natural in origin, but a small percentage remain genuinely mysterious and this is essentially what keeps ufology alive.

Some of the most perplexing incidents involving skilled military personnel are described in this article.

KENTUCKY 1948

The following account has been painstakingly analysed by almost every serious UFO researcher in the World.

Apart from clarifying some of the details, there is little new information that can be added to the tale.

Nevertheless, it does act as a useful springboard to the rest of this article.

The story began in the early afternoon of January 7 1948, when four National Guard propeller driven P-51D Mustang fighters set out from Marietta AFB in Georgia. Their destination was Standiford AFB, Kentucky and the purpose of the journey was to deliver the aircraft to new USAF users.

Captain Thomas F. Mantell lead the flight and about halfway through the journey, he was contacted by the controller at Godman AFB, who asked him to investigate an unidentified object which had been observed by the Kentucky State Police and spotted by an Army Security team near Fort Knox.

One of the P-51s flown by Lt. Bob Hendricks was short on fuel, so it continued to Standiford AFB. The remaining three P-51s led by Captain Mantell set off in pursuit of the UFO.

The object was soon within visual range, although the fighters had now climbed to 22,000 feet and Mantell was the only pilot who did not seem troubled by the lack of oxygen.

(Each P-51 was equipped with an oxygen system for the pilots, but their supplies were low or empty, because they were not expected to operate at high altitude during the ferry flight)

At this point, Hammond and Clements who were flying the two other fighters fell back, leaving Mantell to investigate the unidentified object.

As Mantell continued to climb, he said, "It appears to be a metallic object, or possible reflections of Sun from a metallic object and it's of a tremendous size. I'm still climbing, the object is above and ahead of me, moving at my speed or faster. I'm

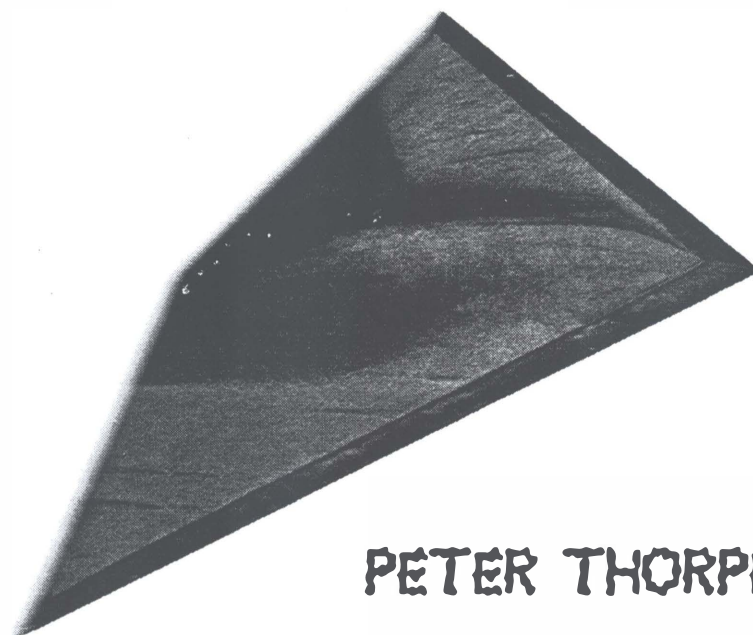
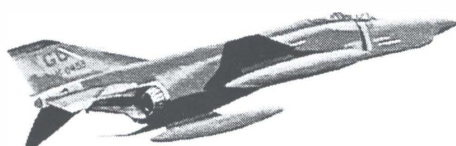
trying to close for a better look."

These were the last coherent words spoken by Captain Mantell and a few minutes later, his aircraft smashed into the ground, about 2 miles southwest of Franklin, Kentucky.

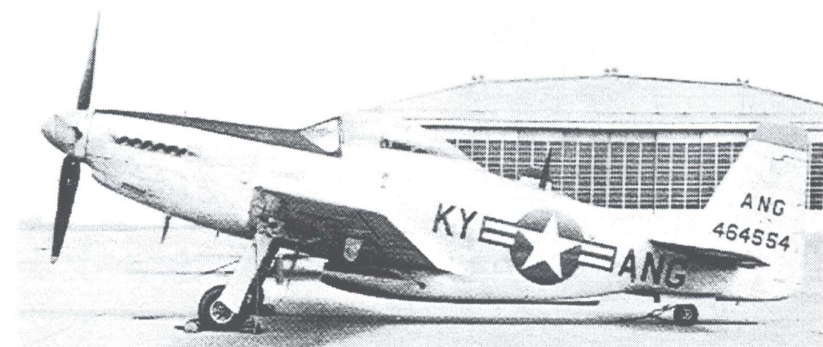
Within weeks of his crash, a string of sensational stories appeared in the tabloids, which suggested that his aircraft had been shot down by an alien spaceship, equipped with a death ray. These were followed by unsubstantiated claims that Mantell's body was missing from the wreckage or had been found covered in strange wounds.

There wasn't the slightest substance to any of these stories, but the authorities were partly to blame, because they had failed to clearly explain the facts to the public.

According to the USAF, Mantell had simply chased a drifting



PETER THORPE



USAF



(Top) A P-51 Mustang fighter belonging to the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1947. (Bottom) Mantell in the lower centre of this K-ANG group photograph taken in 1947.

weather balloon or possibly Venus and had lost consciousness due to anoxia. (oxygen starvation)

It now seems that this explanation was true and Mantell had attempted to intercept a balloon.

What the USAF omitted to mention was the fact that this object had been a classified Skyhook balloon that was launched from Clinton County AFB in Ohio by the U.S. Navy.

With various balloon experiments underway to establish the viability of photo reconnaissance missions above the Soviet Union, projects of this nature remained top secret for several decades. Now there appears little doubt that just such a balloon had been responsible for the incident.

Many reports of UFOs from this era appear to have been classified U.S. balloon tests and some of these objects were highly reflective helium filled enclosures, measuring more than 100 ft in length. This was enough to make them occasionally visible from the ground at altitudes of 100,000 ft or higher.

If, as it now seems likely, the object intercepted by Mantell was a secret USN balloon, it was probably drifting at an altitude of about 60,000 ft, which was far above the service ceiling of a P-51 Mustang or any other fighter at that time. In this instance, the circumstances of the incident now seem clear, but some of the following events may not have straightforward explanations and most remain truly enigmatic.

KOREA 1950

Carl Duvall served as a bomber pilot during the Korean Conflict and this is his account of an unusual UFO incident during a raid on the North. "The war was not going well for America," recalled Carl. "The Chinese had intervened, inflicting heavy casualties on our troops, who were in full scale retreat. In all but name, we were at war with China and there was a widespread expectation that Russia would soon join in, leading to an atomic conflict.

"It was late December 1950, (Major Duvall cannot remember the precise date) and we were flying another day-light bombing mission against a series of bridges at Sinuiju, which was close to the North Korean border with China. Our B-29 bomber group was accompanied by an escort of P-80 Shooting Star jet fighters. Weather conditions were excellent, with perfect visibility for hundreds of miles in every direction and the mission was proceeding routinely."

"As we approached the target area, six MiG-15s appeared and tangled with the P-80s. As I recall, one of the B-29s was slightly damaged."

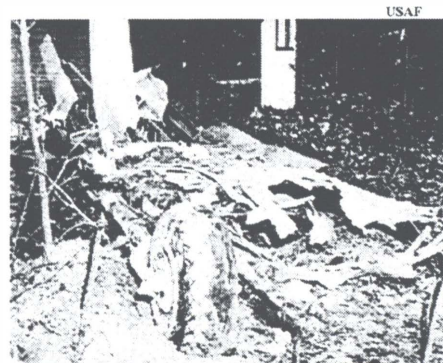
"The P-80s were good airplanes, but no match for the Russian built MiGs and everyone knew this. But one of our fighter pilots got lucky and I can remember seeing an enemy aircraft pulled away with some smoke trailing behind it.

The other MiGs disengaged, then somebody spotted two more enemy fighters high above us at ten o'clock.

They seemed to be shadowing our group."

Carl says he could see the sunlight reflecting off their metal fuselages, but they were too high to be positively identified.

"Two of the escort pilots saw



Pieces of wreckage at the Mantell Crash Site at Franklin. His remains were buried at the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery.



A Skyhook balloon is released during secret trials onboard the USS Valley Forge.

USN PHOTO

these jets and climbed to intercept them, then realised they were above the maximum altitude of a P-80.

"When the Yalu River came into in sight, we all opened our bomb-bay doors and lined up to drop our 20,000 lbs bomb loads on the target area. We successfully completed the bomb run, but the two overhead aircraft continued to shadow our formation and precisely matched our position when we altered course and headed for home.

"Nobody was very happy about this situation. Having two unknown planes stalk the group was very scary, especially as we all knew that the escort fighters had used up most of their fuel reserves."

Carl says that once the P-80 fighters had broken away and returned to base, everyone's eyes were fixed on the overhead bandits, which began to look less like MiGs with every minute that passed.

"They would occasionally alter their attitude slightly and we would catch a glint of reflected sunlight off what looked like polished metal. Some of us thought they were bigger than MiGs and the planes seemed to hold position directly over the centre of our formation.

"My navigator started talking about flying saucers, but the truth is that none of my crew were able to clearly

distinguish the shape of these planes. "Finally, both aircraft seemed to briefly trail vapour of some kind and then pulled away from our formation at fantastic speed. Within minutes, they had swung around towards the north-west and were soon beyond visible range."

According to Carl, many other B-29 pilots reported the two mystery aircraft during the mission de-briefing that followed.

Both of our unit's intelligence officers tried hard to dismiss these sightings and attempted to convince us that the objects were caused by nothing more than unusual weather phenomena.

Carl says they were finally advised not to discuss or elaborate on what we had seen and reminded that nonsense about UFOs didn't look good on official reports.

"I'd just like to finish by saying that some of the guys were absolutely convinced that the objects were semi-disc shaped metallic airplanes!"

Major Duvall says that many UFOs were sightings above Korea by USAF personnel, but few were ever reported because of the official stance on the subject.

* Duvall is a pseudonym.

NORTHEAST-AMERICA 1953-4

On June 24 1953, a fast moving unidentified object was picked up by the Eastern Radar Network as it approached Cape Cod and the USAF

immediately scrambled an F-94C Starfire jet fighter from Otis AFB.

Captain James Suggs who piloted this two-man interceptor was soon within visual range of the UFO, which he described as a bright slow moving light, which was about 1,500 feet above the ground.

Still on an interception course, Captain Suggs armed his weapons and prepared to challenge the UFO.

Suddenly the F-94C suffered a major electrical systems failure and plunged towards the ground.

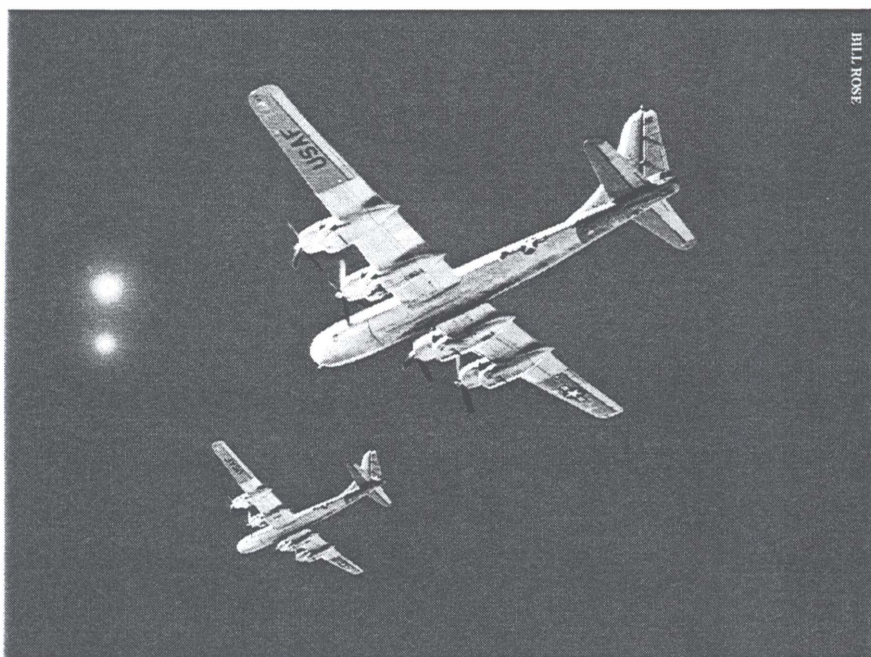
Captain Suggs managed to eject, but his radar operator Lieutenant Robert Barkoff remained in the aircraft and was presumably killed on impact.

The exact fate of the F-94C and Lieutenant Barkoff remains a total mystery, because no wreckage was ever found, despite a massive three month long search, which covered most of the Cape Cod area.

Navy divers were brought in to investigate the possibility that the plane had gone down in Buzzard's Bay, but the F-94C seemed to have vanished without trace.

If the Pentagon knew what really happened during this encounter and where the aircraft crashed they kept very quiet about it.

Equally bizarre was the incident involving another military jet which took place on the night of November 23 1953, when Air Defence Command picked up a fast moving UFO which was crossing Canadian airspace and heading directly towards the US



BILL ROSE

Mysterious objects shadow a B-29 formation over Korea in 1950.

border at Soo Locks, where Lake Superior joins the other Great Lakes.

Almost immediately, a fully armed USAF F-89C Scorpion was despatched from Kinross AFB.

The fighter was piloted by Lieutenant Felix Moncla and carried Lieutenant Robert Wilson, who operated the onboard radar system.

USAF ground controllers at Truax AFB continued to monitor the UFO as the interceptor approached it at 500 mph. Finally, Lieutenant Wilson had the object on his air intercept radar.

As the F-89C headed out across Lake Superior, the UFO began to accelerate until it was travelling at supersonic speed on a collision course with the jet. Moments later, the F-89C and the UFO merged and the voice link from the interceptor went dead.

Suddenly, the remaining radar return vanished without trace and this rapidly led to a major search and rescue operation.

A large contingent of US and Canadian military vessels spent the remainder of the night conducting a thorough search of Lake Superior, but not the slightest trace of wreckage was ever discovered.

Initially, the USAF tried to blame the mysterious incident on the collision of their jet with an RCAF C-47. Then it was suggested that the F-89C had intercepted the C-47, but crashed after breaking away.

This was clearly not the case, because within hours, the Canadian authorities had accounted for all their transport



(Top) Subsonic F-94 interceptors, which played a key role in early US air defence.

(Lower) F-89H all-weather interceptor also used for patrolling US airspace in the early 1950s.

aircraft. When NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) investigated the affair in 1961, they approached the RCAF who reaffirmed there were no C-47s in the area.

As another explanation for this baffling case, the USAF suggested that freak atmospheric conditions had been responsible.

This was quickly followed by another theory that Lieutenant Moncla had suffered from vertigo and must have lost control of his aircraft over the lake.

It should be noted that radar systems of this era were notoriously unreliable and reports of strange behaviour by UFOs would often be caused by faulty or technically limited equipment. So it is conceivable that false radar returns merged with the F-89C and both vanished as the aircraft hit the lake.

About one month later at 3 AM on a Sunday in late December 1953, (exact date unknown) Bill Marsden and his wife were driving along a deserted country road towards Mattydale, which is a northern suburb of Syracuse, New York.

Noticing a large number of bright flashing lights ahead, they thought they were approaching some kind of a road accident and as they came closer to the scene, it was possible to count five police patrol cars and a several other unmarked vehicles.

But there were no damaged cars on the road and Bill Marsden said it was

quite obvious that something very unusual had crash-landed in a nearby field.

Possibly disc shaped, the object was described as metallic and equipped with some kind of phosphorescent lights.

According to Bill Marsden, there were people walking around the craft with flashlights and he remembers one of them taking pictures with a large format press camera.

Bill Marsden was waved through the site by police officers and the following morning, he phoned the local newspaper to enquire about the incident.

The editor told him that he knew nothing about the crash of an unusual aircraft at Mattydale and suggested he phoned the Sheriff's Office.

When he called the police, they confirmed that an unusual incident had taken place at Mattydale, but were unable to discuss any details, because it was a highly classified military matter.

Some years later, when investigators checked police records, there were no indications that any unusual aircraft had crashed in the area north of Syracuse during late 1953.

Seven months later, on June 29 1954, a BOAC Boeing Stratocruiser left New York, bound for London via Goose Bay.

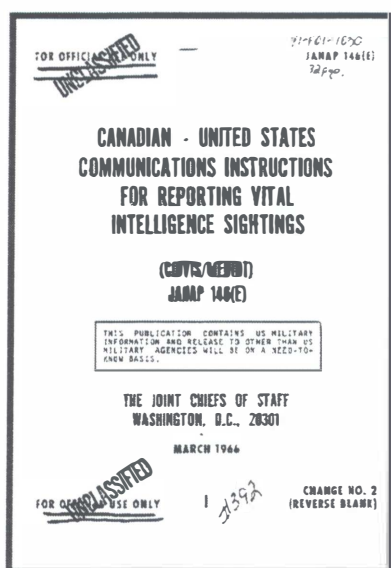
With Captain James Howard at the controls, the Stratocruiser headed up the New England coast, until Boston Air Traffic Control request the aircraft to hold its position above the Rhode Island area and await further instructions.

No reason for the delay was offered, but after 10 minutes, Captain Howard contacted Boston and advised them that he was starting to use up his fuel reserves. He was then cleared to proceed via Cape Cod and rejoin his original route north of Boston.

Three hours later, the Stratocruiser had reached the St Lawrence estuary and was cruising at an altitude of 34,000 feet when a group of mysterious objects came into sight below the port side of the aircraft.

Visibility was excellent and the crew and passengers watched as the unknown aircraft climbed to the same height as the airliner and held their position about three miles away.

The objects they could see comprised of one large featureless craft and six



JANAP-146. A military directive which brought public disclosure of UFO reports to an end.

smaller vehicles, which would continually alter their positions.

As soon as the airliner came within radio range of Goose Bay Control, the co-pilot, Captain Lee Boyd reported what was taking place.

He was advised that an F-94C Starfire jet fighter was on patrol in the area and had been ordered to investigate.

Captain Boyd was then instructed to alter his radio frequency to a military air-to-air band, linking the Stratocruiser directly to the F-94C, which was now rapidly approaching their position.

After making radio contact, the F-94C's radar operator reported there were no additional returns from the airliner's location and as the fighter closed to visual range, the mysterious UFOs vanished without trace.

civilians on the ground were killed when the jet smashed into two buildings and a parked car.

There was a temptation to link all these mysterious events together, but further investigations by ufologists were severely hampered by the introduction of a military directive referred to as JANAP-146. (Joint Army, Navy and Air Force Publication)

Pushed through in early 1954, this measure effectively stopped any further public disclosures of UFO incidents by American service personnel.

VIETNAM 1970

In mid 1970, USAF Captain Chuck Collier was flying escort to a large strike group of F-4 Phantoms that were en-route to attack the Thanh Hoa Bridge 75 miles south of Hanoi.

In the rear seat of Captain Collier's

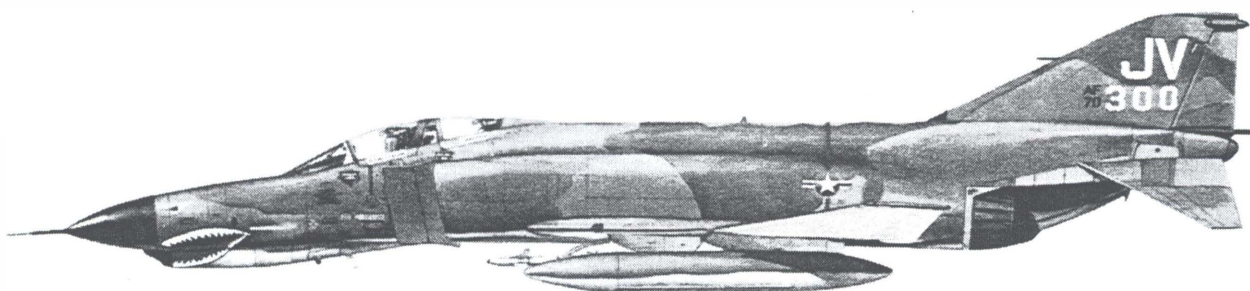
Captain Thomas was the first to notice a hostile aircraft approaching fast from the west and alerted Collier immediately.

Within seconds, they pulled around, followed by a second MIGCAP Phantom and had radar lock-on with the unidentified aircraft, which was moving at supersonic speed.

A lone MiG would not normally attack a well protected large American formation and Collier opened a channel to Ground Control for confirmation.

He was advised that they were tracking the unidentified aircraft at a speed in excess of 1200 mph. As this contact closed on the formation, there appeared to be some kind of a heated exchange taking place between the controllers. Captain Collier believes they were attempting to establish if the aircraft was a classified American

BILL ROSE COLLECTION



USAF F-4E Phantom – SE Asia Markings 1970

Minutes later, the Stratocruiser descended to Goose Bay and when the airliner landed, a team of USAF Intelligence officers were waiting to conduct a lengthy de-briefing.

No explanation was put forward by the USAF, although Captain Howard later remarked that USAF officers were not surprised by the sighting and admitted there had been many other unexplained encounters in the area.

Two days later, an unidentified fast moving UFO was detected entering U.S. Airspace above New York State and an F-94C Starfire was scrambled from Griffiths AFB to investigate.

Much of what happened during this incident remains buried in classified documents, but as the F-94C fighter approached the object above Walesville, it suffered some kind of catastrophic systems failure and the crew immediately ejected.

They survived the encounter, but four

own F-4E Phantom was Weapons System Officer Captain James Thomas and they were flying what was referred to as a Fluid Four Formation, which was standard MIGCAP (MiG Combat Air Patrol) procedure.

The Thanh Hoa Bridge was a regular target for the Americans and it seemed that no matter how hard they hit it, the North Vietnamese would always have it back in service within a matter of weeks.

Flying below Captain Collier and the three other Phantoms on MIGCAP patrol was the main strike group, made up of 32 F-4Es equipped with 2000lb iron bombs. This configuration made them more vulnerable to interception by SA-2 "Guideline" missiles and MiG-21 supersonic fighters.

The missiles could usually be countered by electronic jamming, but the agile MiGs represented a more serious threat, because they were usually flown by professional Russian pilots.

spy plane returning from a covert mission.

Eventually, they decided that the aircraft was "an unknown" and seconds later, the UFO changed direction, heading north. Collier briefly caught a glimpse of the strange craft, which he describes as large, semi-disc shaped and probably about the size of an F-111.

"Some of our electronics began to give trouble," said Captain Collier. "It flashed through my mind that the unidentified aircraft was using some kind of ECM (Electronic Countermeasures) against us."

Uncertain of what he was dealing with, Collier decided to let it go. It was later suggested that Collier had encountered one of the newly developed Russian MiG-25 Foxbats on a test flight, although no records exist which show these aircraft were operation over Vietnam as early as 1970.

Furthermore, Captain Collier insists that the object was a solid disc shaped design and unlike any conventional aircraft he had ever seen.

When Captain Collier and Captain Thomas returned to base, they were met by two intelligence officers and separated from the other flight crews.

That night, they were flown to Kadena AFB on Okinawa, where both officers were intensive de-briefing over a two day period by specialist intelligence personnel. Chuck Collier said that by the time they were finished, he was convinced that he had disobeyed orders and chased after a passing Navy jet returning from a mission, which was an action that might have endangered its safety.

*Second names in this account are pseudonyms to preserve the privacy of those individuals concerned.

JAPAN 1974

In an even more dramatic incident four years later, an F-4EJ Phantom belonging to the JASDF (Japan Air Self-Defence Force) was scrambled to intercept an inbound radar contact, which was thought to be a Soviet Tu-95 Bear entering Northern Japanese airspace on a reconnaissance mission.

The F-4EJ fighter was piloted by Lieutenant-Colonel Toshio Nakamura, who was accompanied by Major Shiro Kubota. Both men had flown a number of similar missions.

After climbing to 30,000 feet, GCI (Ground Control Intercept) advised them that the intruder had been sighted by a number of witnesses on

the ground as a bright coloured light moving across the moonless sky.

The Phantom had soon closed on the unknown object and as they made visual contact with the UFO, it banked away in a shallow dive, clearly aware of the fighter's presence.

Kubota was able to observe the vehicle at close range, which he described as disc shaped, about 30 feet in diameter and equipped with what looked like propulsion outlets at the rear.

Turning rapidly to pursue the craft, Nakamura then activated his fire control panel and readied the 20mm rotary cannon for use.

Suddenly, the unidentified craft turned towards the Phantom and Nakamura was forced to pull sharply to his left, narrowly avoiding collision by a few feet.

This dogfight continued for several minutes, until the UFO finally smashed into the tail of the F-4EJ. All control was immediately lost and seconds later, both of the Phantom's crew ejected.

Nakamura's parachute is said to have caught fire as it was struck by blazing debris from the fighter and he was killed.

The real circumstances of the incident remain unknown, but an exhaustive investigation was conducted by the Japanese authorities who refused to make their findings public.

Kubota was instructed to take a pledge of silence about the incident, but refused to do so and resigned from the JASDF.

TEHRAN 1976

Two years after the Japanese Incident, an F-4D Phantom belonging to the 306th Fighter Squadron of the Imperial Iranian Air force was scrambled to intercept a brightly lit unidentified object that was reported to be hovering in the night sky above Tehran.

The aircraft made a close approach to the UFO and immediately suffered a major systems failure, which affected communications, radar and instrumentation.

As it passed out of range, the Phantom recovered from the electronics black out and the pilot returned to Shahrokhi Air Force Base, suspecting there had been a serious technical difficulty with the aircraft.

At the same time, a second F-4D Phantom flown by Major Hussan Jafari was scrambled with specific orders to intercept and destroy the unknown aircraft.

With the object showing as a sizeable trace on the radar operators screen, Jafari armed his weapons control board and began to close on the UFO, which was now within visual range and flashing a rectangular pattern of coloured lights.

Seconds later, the unknown target began to head south and it dispensed a small brightly lit object, which sped towards the Phantom at high speed.

Suspecting it was an air-to-air missile attack, Major Jafari attempted to retaliate by firing an AIM-9 Sidewinder, but found his weapons system immobilised. As the unknown missile passed overhead at tremendous velocity, Major Jafari's communications and most of his avionics died, but he managed to pull away and had soon put some distance between his aircraft and the UFO.

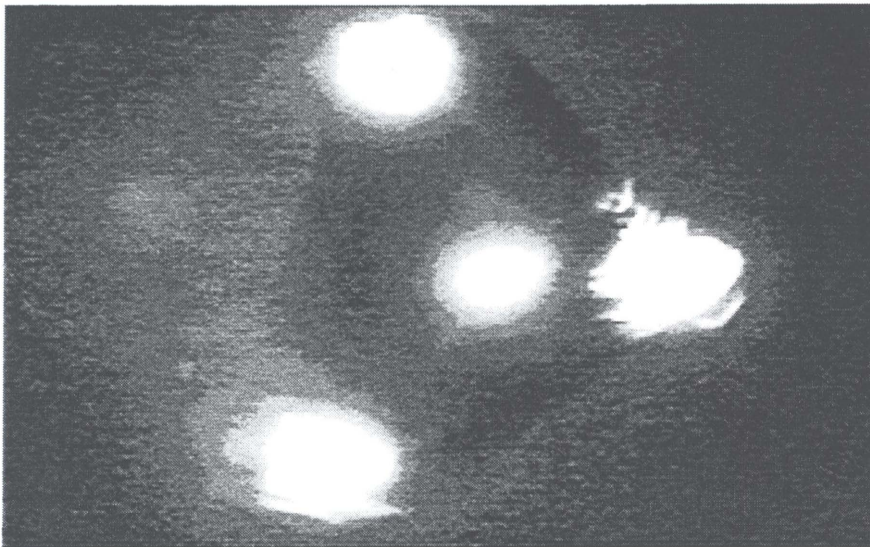
To his relief, the Phantom's systems came back on-line and he began to circle the area at some distance, now aware that the unknown object was descending towards the ground at Mehrabad.

As Major Jafari relayed details to Ground Control, his aircraft would occasionally run into pockets of severe electrical interference, although the object finally disappeared from sight and Jafari returned to base.

The following day, a large military team descended in the area near Mehrabad, where the UFO was thought to have land, but they were unable to discover any evidence of the



An American built F-16 fighter on an intercept mission. Many questions remain unanswered about the interceptions of UFOs above Belgium during 1990 and the suitability of Belgian Air Force F-16s for this particular role.



This widely reproduced photograph is said to show one of the mysterious triangles seen above Belgium during 1990. However, its authenticity has yet to be proven and many believe it is a fake.

craft or signs of unusual local activity.

As a footnote to this story, it has been reported that a secret U.S. DSP-1 military satellite observed the incident. To date, no rational explanation for this event has emerged.

INTERCEPTS OVER BELGIUM 1990

Perhaps the most hotly debated series of UFO incidents in recent times took place above Belgium during a period that lasted from 1989 to 1991, with most activity occurring between Verviers, Liege and Bastogne.

It began with a triangular shaped object being sighted at Braine-le-Compte on September 28th 1989 and from that point onwards, reports began to come in thick and fast.

Credible witnesses (police and military personnel) described seeing a usually silent triangular shaped structured craft, which sometimes beamed down light to the ground.

Regular estimates of size suggested it was around 35 metres in length and perhaps a couple of metres thick. As experienced ufologists know, details like this must be treated with great caution, but suffice to say, it was clear that something unusual was taking place and the object/s warranted further investigation.

On December 5th 1989, the military began to take a serious interest in reports of strange objects in the sky, when radar networks across Belgium and in nearby regions of Germany and the Netherlands detected numerous unidentified returns.

Sightings of unusual objects in the sky continued into 1990 and Belgian Air Force F-16 fighters were placed on alert at Bevekom Airfield.

On the night of March 30-31, Belgian F-16s intercepted unknown intruders and apparently managed to secure radar locks on at least one target, but were out-manoeuvred and failed to come within visual range.

By now, there was growing speculation that the UFOs were secret American stealth aircraft on classified test flights and the Belgian government made a formal approach to the U.S. Embassy.

However, the Pentagon flatly denied that any classified aerial activity was taking place in the region. Even if there were secret U.S. aircraft operating in the area at that time, it is clear that the press created a certain amount of UFO hysteria, leading to numerous false reports.

Some of these reports were quickly cleared up and in one instance an F-16 pilot was able to determine that UFO activity was nothing more than a laser display at Limburg.

While there was obviously something unusual going on in the night skies above Belgium during this period, it should be noted that the radar networks were configured to track aircraft moving at speeds above 100 MPH. (150 kph) To work around this problem, the radar operatives disengaged their computer software and relied on "raw video" for their displays. Doing this introduced many technical faults to the proceedings and downgraded the accuracy of what was

observed.

Likewise, the multi-role radar systems carried by the Belgian F-16 fighters were not optimised for air interception and returns from those unidentified targets showed them moving in ways that are beyond the capability of any conventional aircraft and must be treated with caution.

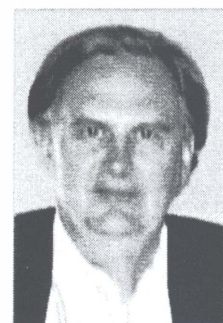
Alien spacecraft? Well it is clear that there were slow moving, apparently structured craft operating in the Belgian night sky throughout this period.

Exactly what they were remains something of a mystery, despite twelve years of intensive study. Some were bogus and others were probably civil aircraft or any number of other regularly observed phenomenon.

Various theories that U.S. black project aircraft were operating above Northern Europe cannot be entirely dismissed. The F-117A Stealth attack plane was clearly not involved, because it cannot fly at the speeds reported. Other suggestions that the alleged Aurora aircraft or B-2A bomber were responsible can also be dismissed for obvious technical reasons.

Conceivable, one or more experimental lighter-than-air vehicles may have been the culprits and there has been considerable speculation that craft of this type have been secretly built and tested to act as various types of surveillance platforms.

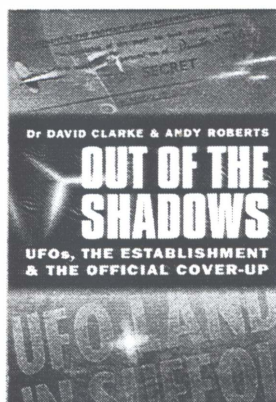
Once more, it appears that the military authorities may know the true story but have decided to keep the details hidden. Could this be another case of using ufology as a smoke-screen to hide secret cutting edge aviation technology?



PETER THORPE is a media consultant living in Ontario, Canada. He writes for newspapers and magazines on various subjects. His main interests are the motor industry, sports cars and Formula One racing.

BOOK REVIEW: OUT OF THE SHADOWS

DR DAVID CLARKE & ANDY ROBERTS



Out of the Shadows

By David Clarke & Andy Roberts

List Price: £17.99

Hardcover - 288 pages

B&W Illustrations

Published By: Piatkus Books

ISBN: 0749922907

This book introduces the reader to Britain's secret interest in UFOs, which began towards the end of WW1. The authors make full use of many previously secret documents, which they obtained from the Public Records Office.

Clarke and Roberts start by examining "Foo Fighters," which were small UFOs seen by Allied aircrews over Nazi occupied territory.

These mysterious objects have perplexed researchers for decades, leading to speculation that they were either German secret weapons, or some form of extraterrestrial craft. While the authors are unable to resolve this question, they do provide some insights into how the UK authorities gathered reports on these mysterious objects.

The book quickly moves along to Ghost Rockets seen over Sweden and Northern Germany during 1946. Many officials believed they were secret Soviet missile tests using captured Nazi rockets, but the UK records seem to suggest there was never any substance to this and Cold War hysteria played a significant part in developing the theory.

One particularly amusing recollection tells how a suspected piece of rocket debris was recovered in Sweden, secretly sent to England for analysis and finally turned out to be nothing more than a lump of coke!

With official interest now focused on Ghost planes entering UK airspace, the book examines Britain's immediate post-war military radar capabilities, which unknown to the general public, left a great deal to be desired.

Ghost aircraft were frequently tracked across our skies on radar, but RAF fighters failed to intercept them and

the RAF's technical analysis concluded that these unidentified planes exhibiting unusual performance characteristics were little more than phantom anomalies.

Nevertheless, the Air Ministry continued to take UFOs seriously. They were aware of the growing Soviet threat and fearful the Russians might be developing new aviation technology, perhaps based on cutting edge German wartime research.

UFOs also made quite an impact at the highest levels, with many believing that extraterrestrials were visiting the Earth in increasing numbers.

One of the VIPs who took a real interest in the subject, was Lord Louis Mountbatten who became a subscriber to FSR. (Flying Saucer Review) Others who were fascinated by the reports included Prince Philip and Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding who had few doubts that UFOs were craft from another planet.

While the Government publicly dismissed UFOs as nonsense, a highly secretive group of experts called the Flying Saucer Working Party were busily gathering information on sightings.

Drawing on the country's leading boffins who included Professor R.V Jones and Sir Henry Tizard, the group liaised with the CIA and concluded that while it was not possible to clear up every report, the majority of sightings had simple explanations. However, they recognised the defence significance of the phenomena, insisting that the importance of UFOs should be downplayed at all costs.

This position would remain unchanged for the next 50 years.

The FSWP was disbanded in June 1951, but UFO sightings continued and this prompted Prime Minister Winston Churchill to ask the Secretary of State for Air "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to?"

He was reassured there was no substance to the reports, although the Air Ministry continued to gather data alongside the Americans, who were still concerned the flying discs might be some type of advanced Soviet reconnaissance craft.

Official documents show that from this time onwards, British UFO investigations were handled by the RAF's London based D.D.I (Tech) Branch.

The authors now return to examine the performance of military radar systems during this period and point out the many shortcomings, which often resulted in jet fighters being scrambled to intercept false radar returns.

In fact such were the problems that on one occasion during 1960, spurious radar returns picked up by the Americans almost triggered a nuclear confrontation with the Russians.

Documents uncovered by the authors show that while there was no outward interest shown in UFOs by Britain, the defence and

psychological warfare considerations remained an important issue. It also seems apparent that the Americans were happy to use UFOs as a cover for their spyplane activities.

Some well known British cases are studied, which include the 1962 Alex Birch photograph of extraterrestrial craft which turned out to be a fake and the 1964 Jim Templeton photograph showing a space-man in the background.

This leads on to some interesting discussion about "Men from the Ministry" visiting witnesses, the mysterious 1970 crash of USAF Captain William Schaefer who was allegedly chasing a UFO in an RAF Lightning fighter and the claimed Berwyn Mountain UFO Crash of 1974.

The infamous 1980 Rendlesham Forest Incident is examined in some detail and the accounts of this affair have split the UFO community right down the middle.

On the one hand, there are some researchers who believe that an alien landing took place and was subsequently covered up, while others remain highly sceptical about this theory.

The sceptical viewpoint is taken by Clarke and Roberts, who have uncovered more details about what took place. They continue to support the suggestion that a nearby lighthouse was the source of strange lights seen in the forest by USAF personnel, who simply misperceived what took place.

Evidently, the MoD made little use of the reports it continued to gather on UFO incidents during the following years and the authors note the steady decline in sightings during recent times.

Once more there is the suggestion that UFOs may occasionally be used as a cover for secret operations or the testing of black budget aircraft.

The book concludes with a discussion about Nick Pope's role within the MoD and finishes with an intriguing official quote that the Ministry remains open minded about extraterrestrials.

This book is a great source of information for the serious ufologist. It is well researched, carefully written and occasionally entertaining. It takes a sceptical, rather academic look at the subject, making considerable use of previously withheld official documentation, but some of the conclusions may not please those "true believers" in an extraterrestrial presence on Earth.

Nevertheless, "Out of the Shadows," is an important piece of work that provides many valuable insights into UK Government thinking on this subject.

Highly recommended.

Bill Rose

The Kenley Ghost: A Supernatural Encounter by Andrew Cole.

Situated in leafy Surrey, just south of Purley, the small town of Kenley is probably best known as the birthplace of the famous actor Peter Cushing (1913-1994) who starred in numerous Hammer Horror films. It was also the wartime location for RAF Kenley which played a major role in the defence of this country during the Battle of Britain.

My unusual experience took place in the centre of Kenley on an otherwise uneventful evening in autumn 1996.

After visiting friends who lived locally, it was finally time to return home and I set off on foot. By now, it was now totally dark and all the streetlights were on.

I had taken this route many times and was very familiar with the location, having lived in Kenley for about 11 years. It was a cloudy overcast night and the air was still and mild. I suppose you would say that the conditions were about average for that time of year and fairly non-descript. Nearing my home, I approached Hayes Lane, which crosses over the railway tracks near Kenley Station. Walking across the bridge was a tall elderly man, slightly bent forward and dressed in old-fashioned clothing, which looked to me as if it belonged to an era like the 1930s.

Apart from his attire, the stranger looked perfectly normal and there was nothing else that really caught my interest. Anyway, once the man had crossed the bridge, he turned left towards the railway station and unexpectedly stopped. This somehow fo-

HILL ROSE



cused my attention and I began to watch him with growing curiosity.

The tall man seemed to be staring vacantly at something in the far distance and I continued to walk towards him until I was no more than a few feet away. Suddenly, to my astonishment, the man began to dissolve into thin air. I could not believe what was happening as he simply faded away. Within the space about five seconds, he had disappeared without a trace.

My heart was racing as I tried to rationalise what had happened. The situation was straight out of the X-Files. What had taken place seemed totally impossible and I realised that I had been deeply shocked by this.

Then I briefly wondered if the man had fallen into some unseen opening, but it was obvious there was nowhere he could have gone.

I stood there for a moment, totally stunned. Let me add that I had no

particular interest in the paranormal at this time, nor had I been drinking or taking any kind of medication that would have caused me to hallucinate.

Despite all my best efforts, I have been unable to find any rational explanation for what happened.

I am now convinced that I encountered a genuine ghost, or let's say I experienced something that does not fit in with our comfortable view of the everyday world.

My historical research efforts since this event have led me to believe that I may have seen the Phantom Groomsman. I am not the only individual in Kenley to have encountered this ghostly figure, who is said to have trained and bred foxhounds at the local manor house, which was demolished many years ago. If it was the notorious Phantom Groomsman, there is no explanation for why he should haunt the Kenley area and my brief impression of the man, suggested he was a contented individual.

However, Kenley has something of a reputation for ghosts and the location has a chilling history. As a village, it was originally called Wattendone, but most of the population died during the Black Death. The bodies were burnt and the remains ended up in a huge plague pit.

Another more recent ghost is the "Nun" who is said to haunt the neighbourhood and perhaps the best known local ghost, is the World War Two RAF pilot who haunts the old local aerodrome and is said to occasionally dash in front of approaching cars.

SETI BOOKS

Books about the UFO phenomenon and related subjects bought and sold. Abduction, Channelling, Alien Motivation and Agenda Investigation Techniques, Anomalous Entities, Crop Circles, Leylines, Atlantis, Remote Viewing, Nostradamus and other Prophets, Out-of-Body Experiences, BlackAircraft/Area 51, ancient Astronaut Theory - Pro and sceptic, Human Evolution, Origin of Intelligence, Ancient Archaeology, Remnants of Prehistory, Archaeo-Astronomy, Mythology and Ancient Religions, Cult Groups and Pseudoscience, Nazca Lines, Egyptian Mysteries, Easter Island, Pri /Re's Map etc.)

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FEEDBACK

YOUR COMMENTS

Dear Strange Times,

I have received the last three issues of your magazine and found some of the articles to be quite interesting. One of the reasons I purchase magazines like this (I get several) is to get a different slant on many issues. Issues that when dealt with by the "mainstream media" are little more than an insult to one's intelligence and/or totally predictable. I was therefore somewhat disappointed to read Brian Allan's article on the Christian Identity Movement.

I am not a member of this movement or associated with them, but I do recognise their right to exist and put across their message free from state or media sponsored intimidation. It was quite clear that the author had already made up his mind before he scaled the high moral ground to deliver his sermon. So much for your magazine and giving two sides to a story.

The author seemed to dismiss the CIM as little more than a bunch of deviant misfits and conspiracy theorists. He offers no evidence for the catalogue of serious charges he makes against them any more than he attempts to get their side of the story.

He seems to denigrate the CIMs fear of an emerging and sinister "New World Order." Hasn't Brian Allan ever heard of the Bilderberg Group, The Committee of 300, The Illuminati?

He dismisses the Protocols of Zion as a 'fake,' yet once again, offers no evidence to support this. If they are fake (I really don't know) then it must be said that an awful lot of that is written in them has come to pass. More coincidences?

He ends his article by hoping the CIM "will eventually leave their fortified compounds," and then he thunders, "join the rest of humanity."

How insultingly moralistic can one get? Is this the same 'humanity' that murdered Sarah Payne? The same 'humanity' that recently raped and murdered a nun in Ireland? The same 'humanity' that recently torched half of Australia? The same

'humanity' responsible for poverty, starvation, sleaze, drugs and child molesters? If this is 'humanity' then God help us. Two sides to all stories please. I'm grown up enough to make up my own mind.

Regards,

Paul Fiavelle

Grimsby

I read with interest Mr Fiavelle's somewhat heated response to what I regarded as a reasonably presented piece on a little known religious sect, viz. the 'Christian Identity' movement. My article was researched and written to demonstrate just how a lunatic fringe can choose to interpret biblical passages in a manner designed to support their extreme, violent and racist views. To suggest that I have never heard of the alleged Illuminati world domination conspiracy is to do me a disservice. I am well aware of this theory and wrote about it in Strange Times Issue Number 2.

I am well aware that the world is not a nice place and I notice that I am accused of 'Thundering' my opinion, not so, I expressed it, and not from some moralistic highground either.

Poverty, sleaze and pedophilia are always going to be in this world, nothing will ever change that. However, perhaps by exposing extremist quasi-religious groups like this who have proven links with the KKK and other ultra-nationalist organisations, we can help eradicate them.

Brian Allan (SPI UK, BUFORA, SSPR)

Dear Strange Times,

I heard from a friend that Strange Times was one of the best magazines around.

Wishing you all the best,

Graham Thompson
Lancaster

Dear Gloria,

I very much enjoy the magazine you so carefully produce. Best wishes.

Kind regards,

Michael Joyce,
Essex UFO Research Group

Dear Gloria,

Thanks for the latest issue of Strange Times. I subscribe to a number of UFO and paranormal magazines, but yours is incomparably the best of them all and I always look forward to receiving it.

Thanks again and best wishes.

Carl Hughes
Norwich

Dear Gloria,

I enjoyed issue number 3 of Strange Times immensely.

Take care and thank you.

Best wishes,

Tony James-Turner
Tuxford

The Editor welcomes letters and readers comments, which should be sent to our office address or can be emailed directly.

See inside the front cover for contact details.

SPI & BUFORA LECTURES FOR 2002.

SPI are pleased to announce a brand new programme of events for 2002. In a departure from previous arrangements, SPI are teaming up with BUFORA (The British UFO Research Association) to sponsor a series of informal *'Phenomenal Afternoons In London'* The 'NEW' venue will be:

The Sols Arms Public House, 65-68 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 2PN.

This venue is literally just round the corner from the famous Euston Tower and Warren Street Tube Station

In addition: BUFORA are running three seasonal 'mini-conferences' as special events at 'other' locations. Details to be announced soon. These events, plus the SPI events featured below, are admission by ticket only.

Price £6:00. (Members of SPI and BUFORA can obtain tickets for £5:00 for 'advance bookings through our box office which is: (These prices include light refreshments) Would SPI & BUFORA members please when ordering tickets, mention your membership card number.

Evolution, P.O. Box, 633, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2GL.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to SPI (UK). And ordered from our box office above. Only advance bookings secures the concessionary rate. Tickets can also be ordered by calling 07949 178 835.

'Phenomenal Afternoons In London Meetings 3:00pm till 6:30pm.

Saturday June 8th, Elaine Waite: Elaine and the MoD. John Hanson: UFOs Over The UK 1943 To Present.

Saturday July 13th. Reg Presley: UFOs & Crop Circles. (plus) James Basil, 'Aliens Within Aliens Without'

Saturday August 10th. Alan Foster.

Saturday September 7th. Harry Harris: The UFO Abduction Phenomenon.

Saturday October 5th. John Spencer, 'Ghosts & Poltergeists, The Impertinent Questions'.

Saturday November 2nd. Jenny Ayres (nee Eales): A Demonstration Of Clairvoyance. Michael Ayres: A Demonstration Of Trance Mediumship.

Saturday December 7th. Philip Carr: The Riddle Of The Orbs.

All meetings above are being held at the Sols Arms Public House, 65-68 Hamstead Road, London, NW1 2PN. Tickets priced £6:00, £5:00 SPI/BUFORA members. (This includes Light Refreshments) See box office address above.

Nearest Tube Station; Warren Street, Northern Line.

These lectures present an opportunity to explore a wider range of subjects given that it is impossible to consider UFOs without touching on wider aspects of the paranormal.

SPI & BUFORA cannot be held responsible for speakers who cancel their spot, suffice it to say alternative speakers will be found should this occur.

Further details available from Malcolm Robinson, Tel: 07949 178 835. (or) spi_spi@hotmail.com

BUFORA Web Site: www.bufora.org

SPI Web Site: www.fsreview.net/spi/spihome.htm

UFOCALL: 09068 121 886. Call for news updates, info on lectures and lots more. B.T. Premium rate call charges apply.

STRANGE TIMES

Science has "explained" nothing; the more we know the more fantastic the world becomes and the profounder the surrounding darkness.

Aldous Huxley

